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UPPER, WEST &
SOUTH NORWOOD

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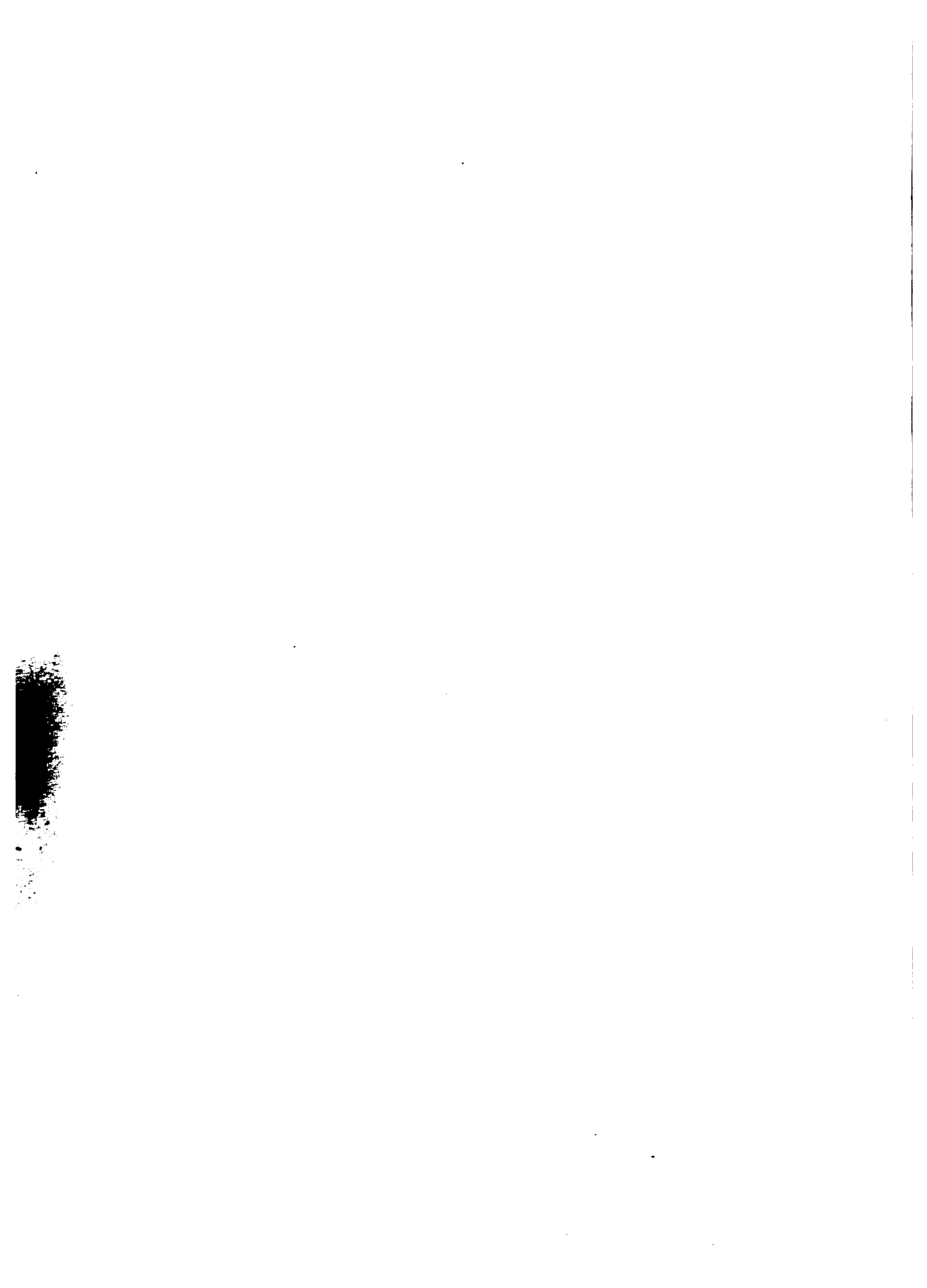
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THE GREAT

NORTH WOOD;

WITH

A Geological, Topographical and Historical description of

UPPER, WEST & SOUTH NORWOOD,

IN THE

COUNTY OF SURREY.

BY

J. CORBET ANDERSON.



PRINTED FOR THE SUBSCRIBERS.

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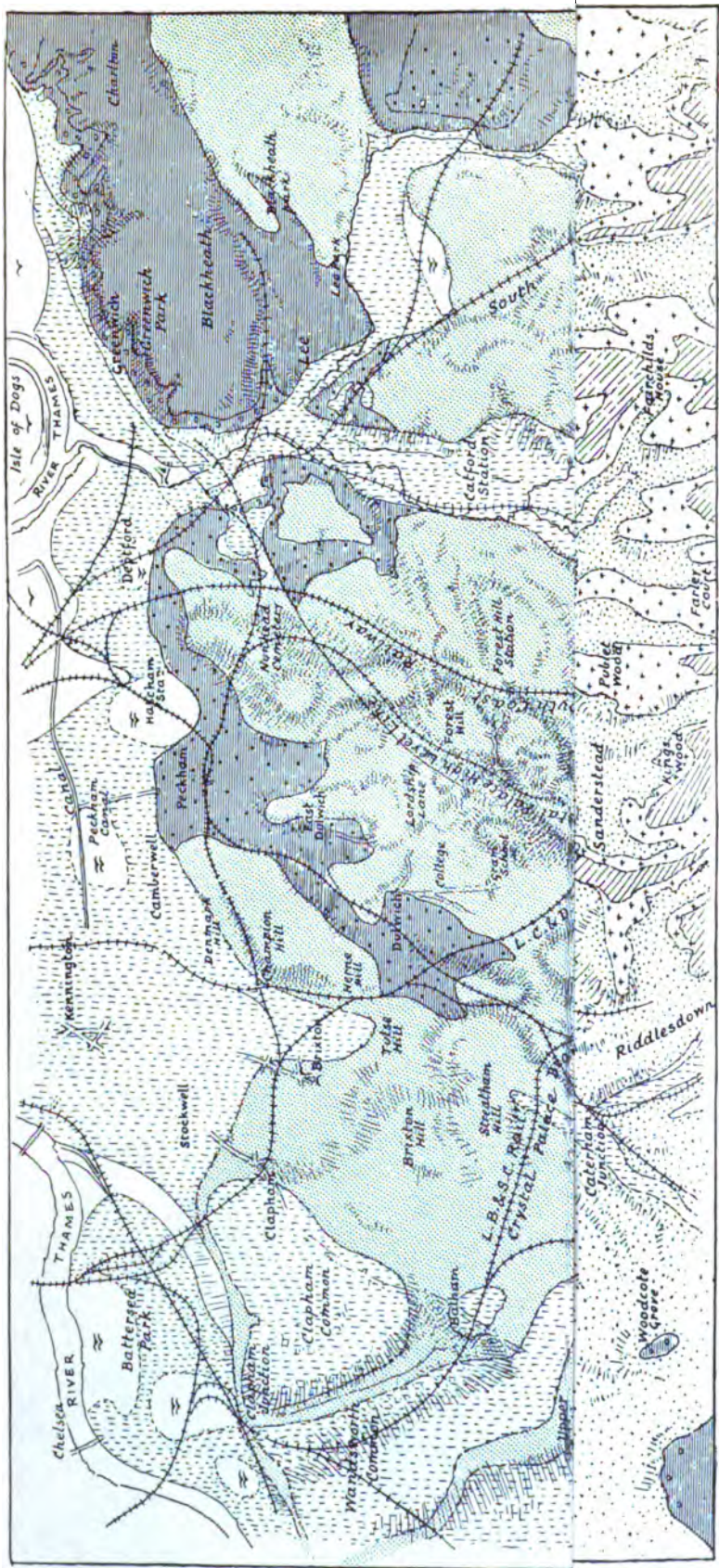
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-  Alluvium.
-  Brick Earth.
-  Gravel.
-  London Clay.
-  Oldhaven Beds.
-  Woolwich and Reading Beds.
-  Thanet Sands.
-  Brick Earth on the Chalk.
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-  Chalk.

A GEOLOGICAL MAP OF NORWOOD AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT:

It exhibits also the superficial deposits.

Geology of the District.



STUDY of the geological formation of the area embraced by this work shows that the ground of Norwood, both Upper, West and South, as well as that of the greater part of Dulwich, and the whole of Forest Hill, Sydenham, Penge and Anerley, with a considerable portion of Beckenham, is composed of what is technically known as London Clay, generally covered with surface soil only, with here and there a patch of superficial gravel.

The southern boundary of the London Clay runs from Epsom, by Croydon and Beckenham, to Mottingham; then westward, by Lewisham to Dulwich; then northward, by Camberwell, to the Thames at Bermondsey. On the west it extends to Mitcham Common, Balham and Clapham.

The hill-forming tendency of the London Clay is well shown by the range of Norwood, Sydenham and Forest Hills. These, forming one continuous chain of hills, rise gradually from the ground on the east; and constitute a marked and beautiful feature in the landscape. The slopes of the London Clay are naturally well-drained, but the flatter tracts are generally damp.

The area referred to may be generally described as situate near the edge of what has been termed the London Clay Basin, at its junction with the chalk.

Chalk has been defined as a stone formed out of the remains of once living animals. It is therefore classified among the *Organically Formed Rocks*, consisting as it does of various minute shells, with fragments of coral and sponges, etc. Larger well-preserved shells and sea-urchins also occur imbedded in chalk.

The word "rock" is used in geology to denote any mass of matter, whether

it be hard or soft, compact or loose. Hence sand, mud, clay, gravel and chalk, in a geological sense, are rocks as much as the hardest block of granite.

The Cretaceous or Chalk strata are well represented at the south end of Croydon parish. Chalk is of marine origin, and indicative of a rather deep sea, and a warmer period than now prevails in England. The minute forms constituting a large portion of the chalk belong to the lowest division of the animal kingdom, the *Protozoa*, which includes besides them the sponges, infusorial animalcules, and some other forms. Accumulations are now taking place in the depths of the Atlantic of the same species of *Foraminifera* as is washed out of chalk, and associated with these are silicious parts of sponges, diatoms, etc., which, hereafter, may become aggregated together, and form bands of flints like those seen in our chalk pits.

The Chalk period was brought to its close by a change in the physical geography of this quarter of the globe, through an elevation of the sea-bed probably; or, it may have been by a shrinking of the sea; yet, whichever was the process, it preceded the commencement of what geologists term the Tertiary era.

The Lower London Tertiaries include those sedimentary rocks known as the Thanet Sands; they are so-called from the Isle of Thanet, where they attain their greatest thickness. These sands are found to a limited extent just outside the area of which we treat.

The *Sedimentary Rocks* are those which, as the name implies, have been formed out of sediment, that is, something which, after having been suspended in and moved along by water, has sunk to the bottom. Gravel, sand and mud, therefore, are in the nature of sediment. The only difference between gravel and sand is that in gravel the stones are large, whereas in sand they are mere grains; mud represents the detritus of both. All are material derived from rocks on the surface of the land, detached, and worn down, by the action of streams or the ocean. The land is continually undergoing waste, and the sea receiving a never ending supply of sediment through these agencies, the potency whereof can only be comprehended by those who have seen the torrent-swept huge gullies of a mountainous country, or witnessed during a storm the ocean waves thunder and dash against the cliffs of some neighbouring coast.

To the Thanet Sands succeeded the Woolwich and Reading Beds, partly of fluvial, estuarine and marine origin, showing a further change in the physical condition of the district—evidence of land surfaces down which rivers flowed, teeming with molluscan life, that have left traces of shell-beds. The beds in question indicate sub-tropical conditions. They crop up in the neighbourhood of Dulwich, Peckham and Lewisham, and are largely developed at Beckenham. Other geological revolutions following caused a newer deposit of sand and pebbles, referred to the Oldhaven Beds, those rounded pebbles so largely exposed on the neighbouring Addington Hills, the same being evidently due to some old coast line of chalk, from the flints of which they were derived, worn and rounded by a long-continued sea-wave attrition. There is this peculiarity about the Addington Hill pebbles, they are all round, whereas a large proportion of the stones in ordinary gravel are not round, but angular. The mounds on Addington Hills appear indeed to have once formed small shingle-beached islands, peeping out from the ocean, a condition in which they seem to have remained for ages.

It was after the deposition of these sands, pebbles, and estuarine beds that another physical and climatic change occurred, during which was deposited the stiff tenacious accumulation called London Clay. Of great thickness and extent, it overlies the chalk strata, and forms a marked deposit of the Thames Valley in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, hence its name. The muddy deposit referred to, appears to be the wear and tear of some old Southern and Western land, during a long period of time, in which, as in the preceding Chalk period, a much warmer climate prevailed here than at present; as is evident from numerous remains of turtles, and crocodiles, found in the London Clay. Of its Molluscan life, rich in genera, many are now restricted to tropical seas. In this deposit are found remains of fishes such as the shark and ray; nor are there wanting indications of land wading birds, and birds of prey; besides *coniferae*, and the fruit of a peculiar palm related to the *Nipa*, now flourishing in India.

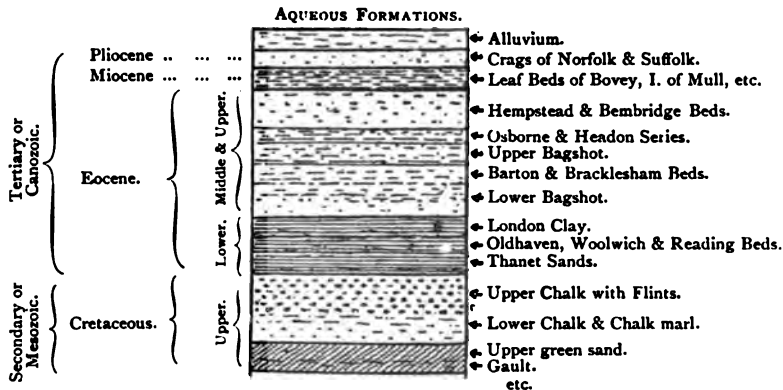
With the London Clay the Lower Eocene formations seen in this neighbourhood terminate, and then a hiatus, apparently representing a long continued period, intervenes between it and the deposition of the overlying gravel. The geological record of this area consequently is imperfect; a succession of vast

marine accumulations have been removed by a mighty denudation, either aqueous, sub-aerial, or otherwise. Like whole chapters torn out of a book, the loss of which can only be understood by referring to some more perfect copy, so the number and nature of these missing strata can only be ascertained by a careful collation with those sedimentary rocks wherein the various deposits constituting the crust of the earth are more continuous.

Such, in brief, appear to have been the circumstances under which, at successive periods more or less remote, that portion of the earth of which we treat would seem to have been gradually prepared by the Creator for the habitation of man. That the land hereabouts has undergone a mighty transformation ere assuming its present aspect, and that it once was submerged by the ocean is proved by the fact that, deep under Norwood Hill extends a bed of petrified oysters. The cutting of the Railway tunnel under Sydenham Hill also yielded a rich harvest of marine fossils. The sea therefore once rolled over all the area comprised in this book.

Table shewing the order of superposition and approximate thickness of the uppermost strata in the British Isles.

Vertical scale about 3,000 feet to 1 inch.



A scrutiny of the above diagram may enable the reader faintly to comprehend what a mass of superincumbent strata must have been removed, through

some cause or other, ere the London Clay of this neighbourhood, and especially the Chalk of Croydon, came to the surface.

This sketch, with the accompanying geological Map of the district will, it is hoped, assist the enquirer to obtain a fairly correct general idea of the geology of these parts.



The Great North Wood.

FROM numerous names suggestive of forest or wood in the neighbourhood of Norwood, Dulwich, Sydenham and Penge, it is evident that in former times a very large proportion of the land hereabouts was sylvan. It was a fragment of the primeval *Coed*, as yet uncleared by the axe, to which our Anglo-Saxon forefathers gave the appellation *Norðwood*, North Wood, in order to distinguish it from that vast South Wood, the Weald of Surrey, Sussex and Kent; and the name has descended to us in connection with an eminence crowning the tract of country previously referred to. But, that this more northern forest, at one time, extended far beyond the limits assigned to the district now known as Norwood, is plain, from such names as Forest Hill, Dulwich Wood, Oak of Honour Hill, Selhurst and Woodside, all of which are to be found on maps of this part of the country. Great woods are described as existing on both sides of the main road between Brixton and Streatham in the time of Henry the Eighth.* To these the robber and the felon fled for shelter from the law. There is little doubt that in remote times here was the swampy, murky, dreadful abode of the wolf, badger, boar, wild cat, and other noxious animals, which sought and obtained an asylum in the gloomy recesses of these woods; whilst the heron, bittern, snipe, and water-rail were busy among the rushes and flags of the ponds that, in our time, have become clean meadows. As the hand of man cleared and gradually overcame it, the delicious acorns this great tract of wood-land yielded might furnish a rich pasture for numerous herds of swine.

In "Effra," the pretty name by which a natural stream running through Dulwich was known, fancy may seem to detect a lingering reference to those elves or fairies who, according to our pagan Saxon forefathers, loved to haunt

* *Foxe's Acts and Monuments*, Appendix, Vol. VIII, p. 695, *et seq.* Townsend ed.

the forest shade, or banks of the rushing torrent. The appellation "Herne Hill" is said to be derived from the herons that frequented the Effra and other streams formerly existing in the neighbourhood.

Within the memory of living men, the whole of Norwood Hill, including the ground on which the Crystal Palace now stands, was a wood ; until Norwood joined Dulwich Wood and Gipsy Hill ; the whole forming one immense irregular plantation of pollard oak, scrubs and furze. With the exception of a cottage here and there, "The Woodman" public-house, on the top of the hill, was the only structure visible. The gardens of this old "Woodman" used to be a favourite resort in summer of the cockneys, whose fortunes were told by a numerous gang of gipsies.

Just where the parishes of Croydon, Lambeth, Camberwell, and the detached portion of Battersea meet on Norwood Hill, stood *The Vicar's Oak*. It was a boundary or mark-tree. At the periodic beating of the boundaries of the above-named parishes, the spot where this tree stood, from time immemorial has been, and still is, chosen by the parochial authorities for halting at, after their arduous labours. Here the ceremony of bumping the parson doubtless was duly observed ; since to that ancient custom the tree probably owed its designation of "Vicar's Oak." Mention of this famous landmark often occurs in parish accounts. Thus, under the reign of Queen Elizabeth appear these entries :—

1583.	When we went our perambulation at Vicar's Oak in Rogation week	...	...	...	...	...	...	2s.	6d.
	Item for drinking the same day	...	...	...	...	...	...		6d.
1584.	In going our perambulation to Vicar's Oke — Churchwardens & other honest men of the parishe	...	...	...	...	...	...	2s.	6d.

And later on, among other similar entries, these :—

1610.	Bread & bear (beer) at Vicar's Oke for the procession	...	...	...	...	...	...	9s.	0d
1612.	For a Kilderkin of beer & other charges spent on the parishioners at the Vicar's Oke	...	...	...	...	...	...	6s.	6d.
1625.	At the perambulation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1	10s. 2d.
	Item for carrying the provisions to the Oke	...	...	...	...	...	...	2s.	6d.

The spot where the Vicar's Oak is supposed to have stood is now occupied by a large central lamp, situated where Westow Hill and Anerley Road intersect Church Road and the Crystal Palace Parade.

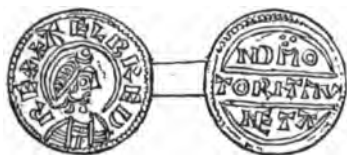
From time immemorial Norwood has belonged to the See of Canterbury. At least that portion of the forest which extended over the northern part of the parish of Croydon appears to have been an appanage of the Manor which William the Conqueror bestowed on Lanfranc. From Domesday Book, that coeval monument of the Conquest of England by the Normans, we learn that :—“*Archiepiscopus Lanfrancus tenet in dominio Croindene*, Archbishop Lanfranc holds in demesne Croindene (Croydon),” and the existence of the forest attached may be inferred from the Norman scribe’s significant additional entry :—“Wood for two hundred swine, *Silua de CC . porcis.*” Lanfranc’s successors in the See of Canterbury continue to this day lords of the Manor of Croydon. As is well known, however, the good Archbishops no longer have any personal interest in the landed estate of the See of Canterbury, which is now vested in, and administered by, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England ; who, accordingly, have become the principal ground-landlords of this neighbourhood. Doubtless in days of yore, many a fat buck, shot amid the oaks of this North Wood, has smoked on the hospitable board in the banqueting Hall of the old Palace at Croydon.

In the name *Collier’s Water*, applied to a place at Thornton Heath, close under Beulah Hill, we have a memento of the once thriving but now extinct charcoal-burning trade, formerly carried on in this North Wood. The terms *collier* and *charcoal-burner* are synonymous. Previous to the introduction of mineral coal from Newcastle, or elsewhere, one of the chief occupations of the old Croydonians was to convert the wood that grew so plentifully here into charcoal, for the purpose of supplying the requirements of the Metropolis. The stream referred to furnished the water for damping the charcoal kilns.

In the year 1862 as the navvies were cutting the line that runs between Thornton Heath and Selhurst, and within a short distance of where the colliers of olden days used to slake their charcoal, a chest of some kind crumbled under the picks of the labourers, when, amid the débris they espied a mouldering bag full of something, for the possession of which there was a scramble, and its contents were dispersed. But a brittle mass, matted together with clay and green oxide, was carried into the town of Croydon by the man who had first laid hands on it, and with difficulty sold as old silver. Upon a careful examination, the hoard, for such it turned out to be, was found to have originally

consisted of about two hundred and fifty Anglo-Saxon coins, most of which were in fine preservation, together with a few small silver ingots, and a part of a torc, or neck ornament, also of silver, and two or three Cufic coins. The coins were of the sovereigns, Ethelward and Edmund, of East Anglia; Ethelred and Alfred, sole monarchs as they are termed; Burgred of Mercia (of which reign were about two hundred of the mass); Louis the Debonnaire; and Charles le Chauve, or the Bald. There was also the half of a penny of Archbishop Ceolnoth, and a few oriental coins. From evidence supplied by the coins themselves, it seems almost certain that they were placed where they were found, in the year 874. In that year Burgred was driven from his dominions by the Danes, and took refuge in Rome. England was overrun by the invader, Alfred was powerless, and those who had treasure endeavoured to secure it by committing it to the earth.

The annexed sketch was made from, and faithfully represents, one of those rude specimens of the earlier coinage of Alfred



the Great, found in the bag. The hoard referred to had been secreted by some one who never came back to take his wealth away, at the foot of the hill, in a spot anciently

included in that oak forest a portion of the site of which is now named Norwood.

During the time of the Commonwealth a Survey was made of the wood at Norwood, then described as late the property of the dissolved Archbishoprick, when it was found to consist of 830 acres; but such havoc had been committed in it, that it contained only 9,200 oaken pollards and eighty timber trees.

In Rocque's Map of the "Country near ten miles round London," published in the year 1745, the North Wood appears to extend for more than three miles across its widest part, from north-east to south-west; from the lower part of White Horse Wood to Dulwich Wells by the "Green Man." To say nothing of a mile of wood immediately adjoining on the north-east, marked on the Map referred to "Oak of Arnon," and now represented by Honor Oak.

The districts known as Norwood, Knight's Hill, Gipsy Hill, Dulwich,

Forest Hill, Sydenham and Penge, as well as a large part of the parish of Croydon, doubtless were all originally included in the great North Wood. But in course of time many of the oak trees disappeared, and large tracts of ground, formerly forest land, gradually assumed the appearance of open commons ; until one after another, these were enclosed ; and at length broken up into numerous small allotments.

A great part of the North Wood disappeared soon after the Croydon Inclosure at the commencement of this century. In 1808 an Act was passed for inclosing Norwood Common.

The celebrated author of *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe, who resided at Tooting between the years 1687 and 1692, thus briefly refers to this district in his "Journal of the Plague Year," published in 1722. "And as I have been told that several that wandered into the country on Surry side were found starv'd to death in the woods and commons, that country being more open and more woody than any other part so near London ; especially about Norwood and the Parishes of Camberwell, Dullege, and Lusume (Lewisham), where it seems no Body durst relieve the poor distressed people for fear of the infection."

Mr. Ruskin, whose paternal home was at Denmark Hill, has given the following description of this neighbourhood, as, in his youthful days he surveyed it from Herne Hill. "On the other side, east and south, the Norwood hills, partly rough with furze, partly wooded with birch and oak, partly in pure green bramble copse, and rather steep pasture, rose with the promise of all the rustic loveliness of Surrey and Kent in them, and with so much of space and height in their sweep, as gave them some fellowship with hills of true hill-districts. Fellowship now inconceivable But then, the Nor-wood drew itself in sweeping crescent good five miles round Dulwich to the South, broken by lanes of ascent, Gipsy Hill and others ; and from the top, commanding views towards Dartford, and over the plain of Croydon," etc.*

No old Church or ancient building of any kind has been found within the wide area known by the general denomination of Norwood—a fact strikingly corroborative of that other evidence we possess of the former wild and uninhabited condition of the locality.

* *Præterita*. Outlines of Scenes and Thoughts perhaps worthy of Memory in my Past Life. By John Ruskin, LL.D., Chap II.

At what time that extraordinary race the Gipsies first made their appearance in Norwood is unknown ; but they must have been living on this Common in 1668, as in that year, under date August 11th, Pepys entered in his Diary :— “This afternoon my wife and Mercer and Deb went with Pelling to see the Gypsies at Lambeth and have their fortunes told ; but what they did, I did not enquire.” At the end of the 17th or commencement of the 18th century, the famous Gipsy queen, Margaret Finch, settled at Norwood, where she was visited by numbers. She attained the great age of 109 years. From her habit of constantly sitting in one position, after death her limbs could not be straightened. Into “a deep square box” therefore the remains of queen Margaret were put, and thus they carried her to her long home in Beckenham Parish Church-yard, her funeral being attended by a great concourse of people. The small rustic house in which Margaret Finch resided was standing on Gipsy Hill in 1808.

In the register of Dulwich College Chapel, under date 1768, appears this entry :—“Old Bridget, the Queen of the Gypsies, buried Aug. 6th.” She was niece and successor of Margaret Finch.

Next door to the “Gipsy Public House in Norwood lived in 1786, an old woman, granddaughter of Queen Margaret, who inherits her title ; she is the niece of Queen Bridget, who was buried in Dulwich in 1768. Her rank ” continues Lysons “seems to be merely titular. I do not find that the Gipsies pay her any particular respect, or that she differs in any other respect, than in that of being a householder, from the rest of her tribe.”

The natural consequence of the Inclosures which took place at the commencement of this century, to which we have already referred, was to deprive the Gipsies of their old home, yet they still clung to this neighbourhood.

The poet Byron, when a boy at Dr. Glennie's school in Lordship Lane, used often to visit the gipsies of Dulwich wood. Within the memory of living men it was no uncommon sight to see from thirty to forty gipsy tents pitched on that open down, the site of which still retains the name of Gipsy Hill.

In 1777 a pantomime was produced at Covent Garden, under the title of “The Norwood Gipsies.”

“The Times” newspaper when describing one of Queen Victoria's visits to the North remarked, “Outside Dunbar a gipsy encampment was passed, in

which is Queen Reynolds, sovereign of the gipsies of Norwood-park." The gipsies had erected a platform whereon was seated Queen Reynolds, wearing a dark purple dress trimmed with white lace ; beside her stood a woman having a yellow handkerchief on her head and a bright crimson shawl over her shoulders, and two men who wore red coats and white vests.

In their day the Norwood Gipsies constituted a notable community.

A consideration of the annexed reproduction of that portion of Rocque's Map which embraces the site of what remained of the great North Wood towards the middle of last century, coupled with an examination of the same forest as, still further diminished, it is revealed in the accompanying facsimiles from the Croydon Inclosure Map of the year 1800, and in the Plan of Norwood Common as allotted by the Commissioners of the Lambeth Inclosure Act, 1808, will explain to the reader, clearer than words could, the changes that have taken place in the area once overgrown by the North Wood.

It must have been a fine sight to have witnessed the great forest of Norwood as in wild grandeur it appeared in days of yore. Hundreds of gnarled oaks then cast the shadows of their giant limbs over the upper slopes, or, in the lower lands, clear sparkling trout-streams wriggled their devious courses through the reedy sward ; while herds of cattle roamed at will over the green open commons. Forest and furzy heath combining, with all the natural beauty of alternate wood and open space, stretched far as eye could scan from yonder height, a glorious sylvan scene !

The district once covered by the great North Wood, and which, within the memory of living men, consisted only of here and there a dwelling, embosomed amid oaks, or scattered around open commons, has now become an extensively inhabited region, locally divided into Upper, West or Lower, and South Norwood.

West or Lower Norwood.

THE district indicated in our time by the name of Lower or West Norwood belongs to the ancient parish of St. Mary, Lambeth. Of great extent this stretches in a southern direction, a long irregular territory, from the river Thames as far as Croydon, of which parish Lambeth helps to form the northern boundary. By his Charter, Edward the Confessor, granted to the Monks of Waltham "*Lambethitæ, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus; Campis, Pascuis, Pratis, Silvis et Aquis* : Lambeth, with all belonging to it ; Commons, Arable lands, Meadows, Woods and Waters."* From various entries in Domesday Book we glean that the Countess Goda, sister of King Edward, Earl Harold, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and Earl Moreton, all of them, either had been previous to or at the time of the compilation of that great Record, were connected with Lambeth.

It was at Clapham, *Clapa-ham*, the *ham* or home of the Danish noble Clapa, that, in the year 1041, the intemperate King Hardacnut, on the occasion of a marriage feast, fell down dead, as "he stood at his drink."†

In this parish, on the banks of what at one time must have been a picturesque reach of the Thames, stands Lambeth Palace, the ancient historic home of the Primate of All England.

To write a history of the important parish of Lambeth however is not my task, but to endeavour to describe that portion of it known as West Norwood.

The ground level at West Norwood is singularly diversified, resolving itself into numerous hills and dales, once the favourite haunt of gipsies. How

* Monast., Vol. II, p. 11.

† Saxon Chron. Clapham was formerly in the parish of Lambeth.

thinly populated the district was in the earlier part of this century is shown by the accompanying Plan relating to Norwood Common. Every house then existing on the area delineated is marked on this Official Survey. But its former open spaces and thickets have now given place to rows of bricks and mortar.

Early in the present century the ecclesiastical parish of (West) Norwood was created. Its church of semi-classical design, built of brick and stone, and dedicated to St. Luke, was consecrated by Dr. Tomline, Bishop of Winchester, on the 15th of July, 1825. The living is a perpetual Curacy; in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It has been held by the—

Rev. A. Gibson, M.A.	...	...	...	...	1825—1836.
— Charles Turner, M.A.	...	...	...	...	1836—1858.
— J. W. Lester, D.D.	...	...	...	...	1858—1870.
— Leveson Cyril Randolph, M.A.	...	...	...	...	1870—1876.
— J. Gilmore, M.A.	...	...	...	...	1876—1891.
— Henry W. Cooper	...	...	...	...	1891—

The parish clerk is Mr. W. J. Thorn, by whom, with his father and grandfather before him, that office has been filled ever since the foundation of St. Luke's.

Attached to this Church is St. Luke's Mission Room, erected in 1897; and also the National Schools: both of these are in Elder Road.

St. Luke's is the only Episcopal Church at West Norwood. It is in the diocese of Rochester.

Although an earlier chapel appears to have once stood near the site, the oldest nonconformist place of worship now existing at West Norwood is situated in a road to which it has given the name Chapel Road. The freehold on which it stands was presented by that Mr. Salter, from whom Salter's Hill derives its name. The West Norwood Congregational Church referred to was opened in June, 1820. At that date the ground around it was open Common land, covered in part with furze and bushes, and without a single house on the south side of the road. Its first minister was the Rev. William Lowe. In 1826, the Rev. John Richards of Stourbridge, became pastor, who, in 1830, was succeeded by the Rev. W. Williams, whose daughter-in-law, Mrs. Williams, of Biggin Hill,

described as "now the oldest inhabitant of West Norwood," still remains a member of this church. The Rev. John Wooldridge, previously a Missionary in Demerara, next officiated here; but, early in 1835 he was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Nice Davies, whose Memorial tablet is in the Chapel. He became Principal of Brecon College. Then came the Rev. Benj. Kent, who ministered here from 1837 to July, 1866. After his death a volume of his sermons was published, whereby, "he being dead yet speaketh." For the following ten years the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. Wm. Knibb Lee, a Missionary from Amoy. The Rev. Jas. McCann, D.D., F.G.S., previously a clergyman in the Church of England, and editor of "The Champion of the Faith," followed next; after whom came the Rev. Samuel King, who, in November, 1891, was succeeded by the Rev. Walter Baxendale, the present pastor.

Among various persons who have been connected with this place of worship may be mentioned Mr. Anderson, to whom West Norwood is indebted for the capital structure at the corner of the road in which this Chapel stands, now known as the Technical Institute.

There is a neat Wesleyan Chapel in Knight's Hill Road. The Primitive Methodist Chapel is in Hamilton Road.

In Chatsworth Road is the Baptist Chapel, of which the Rev. Archibald G. Brown has just become pastor.

At Auckland Hill stands Auckland Hall, an undenominational religious Meeting House. Further up, in St. Cloud's Road is another small chapel. Lansdowne Hall, in Canterbury Road, is a commodious iron structure, also devoted to religious purposes. At Langmead Street is Elim Hall, a station of the London City Mission.

The South Metropolitan Cemetery, at West Norwood, covers nearly fifty acres; it was incorporated in 1836, and the first interment occurred in 1837. Within the grounds are two Chapels, one for members of the Established Church, and the other for nonconformists: there is also a small Greek Church. Here sleep, "after life's fitful fever," Tom Spring, "Champion of England"; Sharon Turner, historian of the Anglo-Saxons; John Britton, the Antiquary; Mantell the Geologist; Douglas Jerrold; Justice Talfourd; Sir William Tite, the Architect; the African Missionary, Dr. Moffat; Charles Spurgeon; David Cox,

the painter in Water Colours; and also Samuel Prout; Robson the Comedian; Lord Hannen; Baron Pollock; with many others more or less famous in their day.

Having purchased Brockwell Green Farm in 1785, the Manor of Leigham Court in 1789, and at different times various other lands in this neighbourhood, Lord Chancellor Thurlow selected Knight's Hill as a suitable site for a dwelling, and employed Henry Holland the Architect to build him a house there. The Mansion was finished and much admired. A splendid prospect was visible from the upper rooms of the structure; the grounds also were extensive and beautiful; strange to say, however, his lordship refused to occupy his mansion, and persisted in living at the inferior house of Knight's Hill Farm, adjoining. Another Lord Chancellor (Eldon) has thus commented on the subject:—"Lord Thurlow built a house in the neighbourhood of London. Now he was first cheated by his Architect, and then he cheated himself; for the house cost more than he expected, so he never would go into it. Very foolish, but so it was. As he was coming out of the Queen's Drawing Room, a lady whom I knew very well, stopped him and asked him, when he was going into his new house? 'Madam,' said he 'the Queen has just asked me that impudent question; and as I would not tell her, I will not tell you.'"

The great Lord Thurlow died on September 12th, 1806, and his estate devolved to his son. In 1808 an Act was passed enabling the executors to pull down the mansion and sell the lands, which are now built over.

Knight's Hill Farm, marked on old maps, appears to have been situated somewhere about the track now named Thurlow Park Road. Knight's Hill may derive its name from that Mr. Knight who held, somewhere hereabouts, thirty acres of land from Edward Alleyn. As a memento of the former noble owner of much property in the vicinity, his name has been judiciously preserved in that of Thurlow Park.

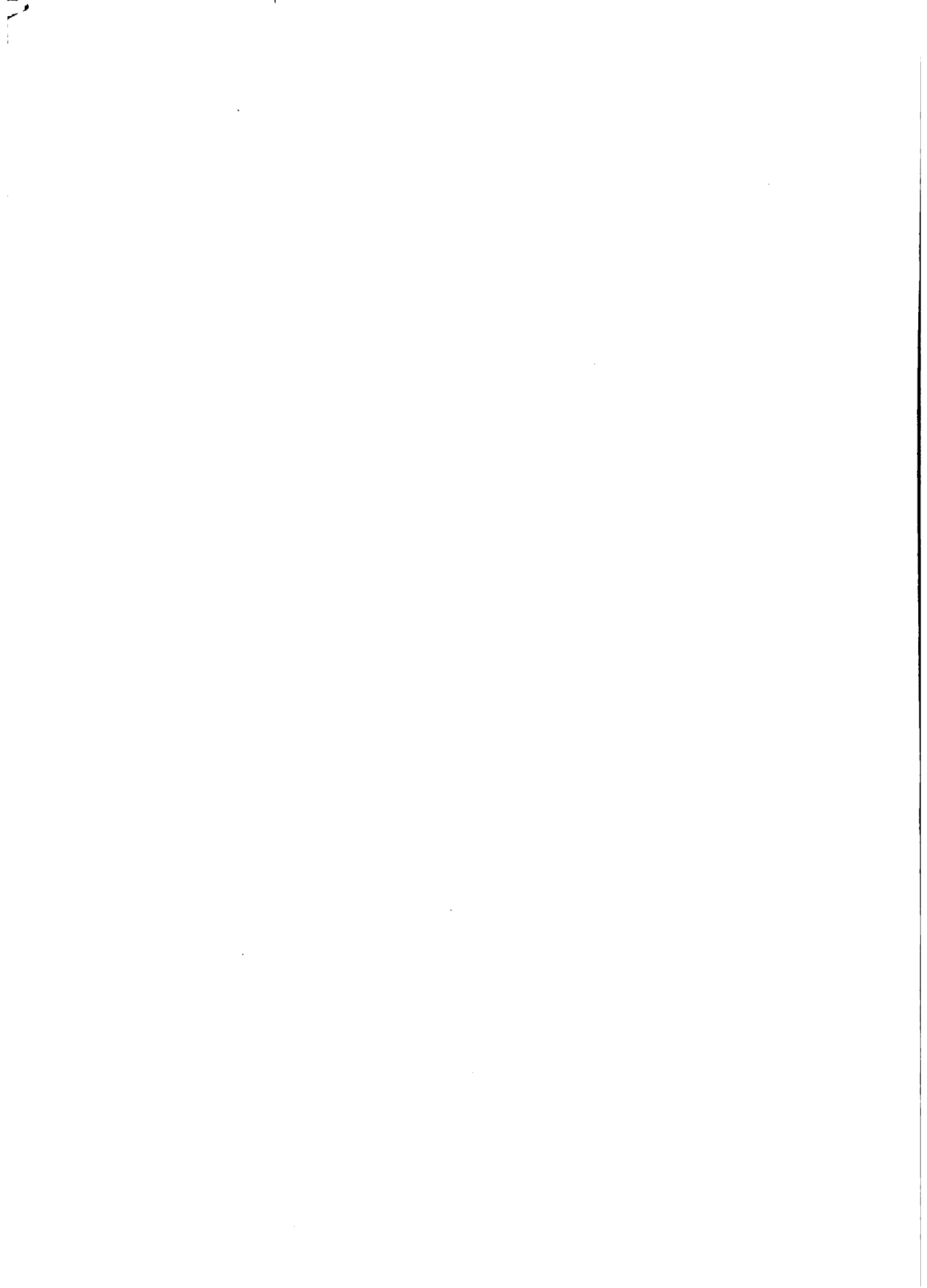
This neighbourhood is rich in philanthropic institutions.

On the verge of Lower Norwood, on May 4th, 1852, the foundation stone of the Westmorland Society's School was laid, on an acre of land at Tulse Hill, which Mrs. Edwards had offered to the Society on very advantageous terms. The Westmorland Society, founded in London in 1746, was originally designed



THE GREAT NORTH WOOD.

NORWOOD, and its surrounding neighbourhood, as Surveyed by Rocque in 1745.



to be a means of uniting the natives of Westmorland then living in the Metropolis, and assisting young men coming from that county to obtain employment.

Occupying an elevated site at Crown Lane, near the top of Knight's Hill Road, and not far from the upper end of Streatham Common, stands the British Home for Incurables. What a world of sorrow is implied in that one word *incurable*! Yet it is calculated that no less than 200,000 persons, numbers of them doubtless *homeless* as well as *hopeless*, annually die of incurable diseases within the area of the United Kingdom.

The British Home for Incurables was founded in the year 1861 by some generous men, who, commencing their work in faith, gave pensions and skilled Medical attendance to a few out-patients. But early in 1863 premises at Clapham Rise, formerly occupied by the British Orphan Asylum, were the local habitation of the Charity, of which H.R.H. The Princess of Wales then became Patroness. To that home, one day in 1876, Her Royal Highness went on a private visit, and personally saw and spoke to every patient—a womanly act of sympathy which attracted wide-spread interest. In 1882 Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen became a Life Governor of the Institution.

The lease of the old premises having run out, the Committee found another site for the Home, on the breezy height of Crown Hill. The new edifice is a handsome, capacious, and substantial structure of red-brick and stone, with terra-cotta. Attached to the east end of the fabric is the Chapel. There is also to be a Hall for Concerts and entertainments. The building is not laid out after the ordinary fashion of an Hospital, for it is a Home; and indeed, in appearance it resembles an old English manorial residence. Most of the rooms occupy the sunny south front, whilst many have side windows that catch stray gleams of the sun as he sets in the west. Grouped in separate families of about ten members, each has its own cheerful sitting room, airy bed-rooms, service and sanitary wing; everything being as cosy and home-like as possible. The garden has terraces and graduated slopes, so that the wheeled chairs being pushed out on to them, the poor occupants can enjoy the sunshine and watch the budding of the plants. The total cost of the structure, exclusive of the chapel, the generous gift of Miss Leicester, was £27,500.

Amid glorious sunshine, on Tuesday, July 3rd, 1894, the new building of the British Home for Incurables was opened by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales. The event excited great interest in the neighbourhood, which was elaborately decorated for the occasion. The Princess, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princesses Victoria and Maud, attended by an escort furnished by the Middlesex Yeomanry Cavalry, came by way of Brixton Hill and Streatham Common to the Home. A guard of honour of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion East Surrey Regiment, was stationed opposite the main entrance. On her arrival, the Princess was presented by Earl Amherst, President of the Institution, with a silver key, with which she opened the front door. Entering, the Royal party was met on the vestibule by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rochester, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and Countess Amherst, the last of whom presented the Princess with a handsome bouquet. After visiting the patients in the east wing, the Royal party proceeded to the raised West Terrace, in front of which seating accommodation had been provided for more than two thousand persons. Here the Archbishop offered a short prayer, and then a long file of children and others, one by one, offered the Princess of Wales purses containing £5 and upwards, in aid of the Building Fund. Finally, Mr. J. Hampton Hale, one of the Treasurers, advanced and presented the sum of £3,854, which had been collected in response to a special appeal that the new building might be opened free from incumbrance. An Address of Welcome to Her Royal Highness was afterwards read, to which the Prince of Wales made the following brief and genial reply :—

“I am desired by the Princess to return you her warmest thanks for the address we have just heard of welcome in coming here to-day, and also to tell you of the great pleasure it gives her to take part in the day's proceedings by opening this new home for so admirable an Institution as the British Home for Incurables, of which she has now been patroness for thirty-one years. (*Cheers.*) It is impossible to conceive a more charitable or more excellent object than an institution for housing our unfortunate fellow creatures, who in their great suffering and need, though they cannot ultimately recover, may at least have the advantage of care, nursing, and fresh air, so that towards the end of their lives they may be well cared for. It must certainly be one of the most philanthropic objects in which we could possibly be engaged.

One word I must say on my own part. I think I may safely congratulate you all that, after heavy expenditure, through the liberality of so many you are free from debt. I only hope you may long continue so; and long may this excellent Institution flourish.” (*Loud Cheers.*)

At the request of Earl Amherst, the Princess of Wales then pulled the cords connected with a silken Union Jack, and unveiled a tablet in the wall on

which the united shields and armorial bearings of Great Britain and Denmark are carved ; and declared the buildings open. The ceremony concluded by the Archbishop pronouncing the benediction.

After spending an hour in a "Country Fair and Market," which had been organized in aid of the Institution, tea was served to the Royal guests, who, soon after left, amid hearty cheers from a vast assemblage of people ; the Royal cortége passing through West Norwood and Tulse Hill, on its way back to Marlborough House.

In the evening the entire district was gaily illuminated.

On the second day the Fair and Market were opened by H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg ; and, on the third day, H.R.H. the Princess Louise drove down, accompanied by the Marquis of Lorne.

It only remains to add that, the Dedicatory Service at the Opening of the beautiful Chapel took place on November 28th, 1894. In the absence, through illness, of the Bishop of Rochester, Dr. Yeatman, Bishop of Southwark, officiated. The bishop observed in his brief address that :—

"This Chapel must be the very centre of the Home to those who are longing for the land where sorrow and suffering are known no more. It shall be here the token of the presence of God ; a House not only of Prayer, but of Praise ; for God shows, even in affliction, that He is the God of Love."

The Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum, at West Norwood, is the successful result of various amalgamations among kindred Societies belonging to the Jewish denomination, at Mile End and elsewhere. It is a handsome and spacious Jacobean structure. The freehold site on which it stands, occupying in all nine acres, was the generous gift of Barnett Meyers, Esq., and Isabella his wife, A.M. 5621—A.D. 1861. The corner stone, situated at the south-east angle of the tower, was laid 6th June, 1861, by Sir Anthony Rothschild, Bart. From an inscription affixed to the wall of the entrance Hall we learn that, the Jews' Orphan Asylum, formerly in the Tenter Ground, London, was amalgamated with the Jews' Hospital at Lower Norwood, formerly at Mile End, under the name of the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum, in 1876 ; and the two Charities, whose aims and objects were in the main identical, thus happily united, the work of both henceforth has been carried on at Norwood.

As its name implies, the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum accomplishes a double object, since it serves for the support of the aged, and the maintenance, education, and employment of youth. As representing the original Jews' Hospital the Institution continues to assist the aged by giving pensions to deserving persons. The number of Children at present being educated here is one hundred and fifty boys, and one hundred and twenty girls. This admirable school claims to have been one of the first to give a technical education.

As it was in 1795 that the brothers Abraham and Benjamin Goldsmith, benevolently reflecting on the inadequate provision made for the assistance of their poorer brethren, set on foot the movement which resulted in the establishment in 1807 of the Jews' Hospital at Mile End, it was resolved that the year 1895 should be a memorable date in the annals of the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum. Accordingly, a Centenary Festival Dinner took place at the Holborn Restaurant, on April 24th, 1895, at which the President, Alderman G. Faudel-Phillips (now Sir George, late Lord Mayor of London) occupied the Chair, being supported by the Sheriffs of London, and over three hundred ladies and gentlemen. Before the Company separated it was announced that donations to the amount of £18,000 had been received, of which £500 was contributed in the room after the eloquent appeal of the president. Since then this amount having swollen to over £20,000, the Committee determined to carry out the necessary enlargement of the fabric, so as to enable the Charity adequately to fulfil its mission as the only National Jewish Orphanage in the British Isles. A great extension of the buildings of this Institution therefore has recently taken place.

The new Centenary Hall and two wings that have been added to the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum, at West Norwood, were opened by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge on May 3rd, 1897. The Lord Mayor of London (now Sir George Faudel-Phillips, Bart.) with the Lady Mayoress came in State to assist in the ceremony, which took place before a great assemblage. The children of the Orphanage chanted a Psalm, and the Chief Rabbi (Dr. Adler) reverently offered a dedicatory prayer, which included a special reference to the Queen and the Royal Family. The Duke of Cambridge then declared the new buildings open, and in the course of his speech alluded to the great interest his royal relatives had always taken in the Charity. Purses were received by the Lady

Mayoress in aid of the building fund, and in this way an additional sum of £650 was subscribed. The Lord Mayor next made an excellent speech, full of humour, and breadth of sentiment; observing that, in his official position he banished prejudice, and did his best for Charity, which, knowing no distinction of creed, ought to be wide as the world.

By way of corroborating the statement made by His Royal Highness, as to the interest taken in this Institution by members of the Royal Family, it may be mentioned that, his father, the late Duke of Cambridge, kindly assisted to develop it. Moreover, there is a full-length portrait of H.R.H. the late Duke of Sussex in the Dining-Room.

Attached to the wall of the entrance Hall is an elegant tablet, placed there in grateful recognition of the eminent services rendered to this Institution by the late Dr. Henry Behrend, who for twenty-two years was its President. With the same intent his widow, Mrs. Behrend, has given a choice collection of books, now in the Board Room, and preserved in five oaken cases, the beautiful carvings of which were executed by Miss Chambers, daughter of the late Recorder of London.

Mr. A. Raphael, B.A., is the Principal, and Mrs. Raphael the Matron, of this noble monument of well-directed benevolence.

From a slab attached to the older building we learn that the Lambeth Parish School, in Elder Road, was founded in 1815. Originally the structure was intended as a suburban home for the very young and very old inmates of Lambeth Workhouse, but now the Guardians send here every child who has become chargeable to the parish. The older boys and girls are domiciled and trained in the handsome buildings that were opened in 1885. The structural design is admirable. The Great Hall is capacious; and all the rooms are commodious. There is no over-crowding.

The buildings are divided into eight distinct blocks, each having two dormitories and its play-room. Attached to each block is an attendant. In addition to the Superintendent and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Fielder,* there is a

* Mr. Fielder was for ten years chief of Dr. Barnardo's Staff. Acting as the pioneer, he took the first party consisting of fifty boys from the Homes in London, and settled them in Canada; a proceeding the success of which has subsequently led to a great emigration, conducted on the same philanthropic plan.

Head-Master and a Head-Mistress, and there are eight assistants. As a rule the boys are kept here until they are fourteen or fifteen years old, but never after attaining the age of sixteen. They are then apprenticed to some useful trade or sent out to situations, a considerable number being drafted on board the "Exmouth" training ship, for service in the Navy. Music being made a special feature in the education given at this school, which by the way has a capital band of its own, all the band lads here eventually pass into the army regimental bands.

With a few exceptions, in which physical infirmities prevent, the girls are trained chiefly for domestic service.

Besides the education given here, about one hundred and fifty boys and girls attend the neighbouring Board Schools. The children of Roman Catholic parents are sent to the neighbouring Convent, or school of their own communion.

Within the grounds there is a handsome Chapel.

Adjoining is the older building, which re-modelled serves for the Infant School ; it is managed by a separate staff. Here also is the Infirmary.

This great and orderly establishment provides accommodation for upwards of six hundred children, inclusive of the children on probation or in quarantine ; divided equally between boys and girls. It affords also a home for two hundred infants besides ; and there is the Infirmary of one hundred beds. All being fed, clothed, and educated at the cost of the ratepayers of Lambeth.

St. Saviour's United Almshouses are situated just at the bend of Hamilton Road. They consist of four neatly designed blocks of red brick and stone, which, with the entrance lodge form a large quadrangle, enclosing a green sward, ornamented with flower-beds and laid out into walks. In the middle of the largest block stands the Chapel with its little spire. On either side of the entrance to this Chapel is affixed a stone tablet bearing an inscription. That on the left-hand tablet runs as follows :—

St. Saviour's Southwark.

The sixteen Almshouses and the Chapel
in the centre are

The College or Hospital of the Poor
of the Parish of St. Saviour, Southwark
founded by Thomas Cure Esq^{re}.
(Saddler to Queen Elizabeth)
in the year 1597.

Jackson's Almshouse	founded in	1660
Spratt's	—	in 1694
Young's	—	in 1694.

The Three Almshouses
were erected by subscription in 1832 and 1835
and

The Gravel Lane Almshouses (in
exchange for Alleyne's Soap-Yard Almshouses)
were founded previous to 1671 and
rebuilt by subscription
in 1852.

The right-hand tablet is inscribed :—

St. Saviour's Southwark.

The various Almshouses and the Chapel
within this ground (described in the other
Tablet) were erected in the years 1862 and
1863, during the Wardenship (for two years) of

James Newton	Great Account
Robert Tiffin	Renter
John Henry Muller	College
George Mansell	Bell
Charles Dyer Field	Newcomen's
Benjamin Kedgley	Young, Spratt & Jackson's.

The First Stone was laid by
John Henry Muller, the College Warden,
on the ninth day of October, 1862.

They were rebuilt on this ground in consequence of the
site of the College and Ground in the Parish of St. Saviour, Southwark,
whereon they were originally erected and stood having been taken
for the purposes of the Charing Cross Railway.

Edward Habershon, Architect.
Herbert Sturmy, Vestry Clerk.

Attached to the wall of the eastern block is an old stone tablet whereon is carved a shield of Arms, with date, 1646. Underneath, this :—

The Gift of Edward
 Alleyn Esquier
 Chvrch Wardens at the
 Same Tyme
 Clemant Richardson
 Iohn Hardwicke
 William Crofts
 William Chappell
 Richard Drewry
 & Iohn Allsy.

This stone belonged to the original buildings in the Soap Yard, Southwark, and was fixed here in June, 1886.

Built into the wall of the West block are three other inscribed stones ; the oldest of these original inscriptions is as follows :—

The Gift of Mr. Henry Jackson, Built
 in the yeare 1685.

The next stone, underneath a carving of a skull and cross-bones, bears this :—

The gift of Henry Spratt, Carpenter,
 1709.

The third inscribed stone this :—

The gift of Henry Young in the yeare
 1690.

The original British School of Lower Norwood was in Chapel Road ; it was afterwards turned into the Board School, now carried on in extensive buildings situate in Gipsy Road.

The London School Board has two establishments here, namely, Salter's Hill School, and the school just referred to in Gipsy Road.

In respect to this Gipsy Road School ; the transfer from the British to the Board School was effected in May, 1872 ; and from 1873 to 1875 the school was carried on in a temporary iron building. In 1875 the school

was opened in the permanent building ; which has since undergone various enlargements.

The average attendance at the Boys' School is three hundred and thirty. Mr. Charles Wilson is Head Master of this department ; he was Master of the original British School here Mrs. Selby is the Head Mistress of the Girls' School ; the average attendance at this is also about three hundred and thirty. The Junior Mixed School, of which Miss Hossack is Head Mistress, is carried on in a separate block of buildings ; the average attendance at it, of children of both sexes, is three hundred and ninety-five. Miss James is the Head Mistress of the Infants' School, at which there is an average attendance of about three hundred and thirty.

So that, altogether, the number of boys and girls, including infants, attending this large group of schools belonging to the London School Board, in Gipsy Road, does not fall far short of fourteen hundred.

With regard to Salter's Hill School ; twenty years ago it was carried on in a temporary iron building in Romany Road, but some three years afterwards the school was removed to the permanent structure on the present site, where it has since been enlarged.

The Head Master of the Boys' School here is Mr. John Turner ; Mrs. Ollis is Head Mistress of the Girls' School, and Miss Jones of the Infants' School.

The average attendance of boys is about two hundred and ninety ; and of girls, two hundred and eighty. The attendance at the Infants' School averages three hundred and forty.

This Salter's Hill School is a *Manual Training Centre*, as well as a *Cookery* and a *Laundry Centre*.

One of the most pleasing examples of Architecture in West Norwood is the Norwood Technical Institute, at the junction of Chapel Street, with Knight's Hill Road. The structure was originally erected at the cost of the late A. Anderson, Esq., for "The Workmen's Institute" ; but, recently it became the home of the Norwood Technical Institute, Branch of the Borough Polytechnic. This Institution is maintained by a grant from the London

County Council, the Council being well represented on the Governing body. Here a comprehensive and good work of Technical and Manual Instruction, by competent teachers, is now being promoted under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889.

In front of the Polytechnic stands a substantial-looking Drinking Fountain.

A little lower down Knight's Hill Road are the so-called "Rothschild Gardens," abandoned Almshouses that used to form, with Hall and Chapel, three sides of a square. These buildings were originally erected by a Society for Aiding Indigent Foreigners, but this, failing to carry out its beneficent intention here, the property was sold to M. Spartali, a Greek merchant, under whose ownership the tenements remained empty for about fifteen years. This gentleman having suffered severe losses, at length the property has been placed in the hands of an agent, who is now endeavouring to let the various rooms.

Not far off is an inferior Police-Station ; and, still nearer St. Luke's Church, what is called a Public Hall.

The Postmen's Office is opposite the Church ; the nearest Post and Telegraph Office to it being at 184, Norwood Road ; and the nearest Telegraph Office, West Norwood Station.

In the High Street, adjoining St. Luke's Churchyard, is a capital Station of the London County Council's Fire Brigade.

It was in December, 1886, that the ratepayers of Lambeth, by a decisive majority voted for the adoption of the Public Libraries' Acts. The number of votes recorded were :—

For the adoption of the Acts	-	-	-	-	15,292
Against	-	-	-	-	12,481
			Majority	-	2,811

The Commissioners elected to carry out the work decided that the parish should be divided into five districts, each of which was to have its own Free Library ; of these, the first erected was the Public Library at West Norwood. It stands on a freehold site in Knight's Hill Road, close to St. Luke's Church, generously given by Frederick Nettlefold, Esq., of Streatham. The cost of the

site, building and fittings, amounted to £5,506, of which, nearly £2,000 was received in subscriptions; the remainder being defrayed from the rates. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Nettlefold, and the building opened by Lord Northbrook and Sir Lyon (now Lord) Playfair, on July 21st, 1888. The following inscription appears on a brass tablet in the Vestibule :—

NORWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PARISH OF LAMBETH.
This building was erected (on the site
presented by Frederick Nettlefold, Esq.)
A.D. 1887 — 1888.

A commodious Reading Room, and also a News Room, form parts of the structure; the walls of these are adorned with some good Maps and Engravings.

The number of books at present in the West Norwood Library amounts to exactly 11,575 Volumes. Of these a large proportion are standard works on Theology and Philosophy, History and Biography, Voyages and Travels, and the Arts and Sciences. Credit is due to the Commissioners for having endeavoured, as far as funds would permit, to make the various libraries under their control thoroughly representative in all classes of the best English Literature.

Mr. Frank J. Burgoyne, appointed in 1887, was the first and still is the capable Chief Librarian of the Lambeth Public Libraries.

Formerly consisting only of a few tenements scattered around a large Common, West Norwood has become a populous neighbourhood, with a High Street well lined with capital shops. Owing to the neighbouring cemetery, the statuary-mason calling has arrived at considerable perfection at West Norwood.

As part of Lambeth, West Norwood is included in the Administrative County of London. In reference to sanitary and other important matters affecting the welfare of West Norwood, the district is under the supervision and taxation of the Lambeth Vestry. For the Relief of the Poor it is subject to the Lambeth Board of Guardians.

In respect to Parliamentary Representation, West Norwood belongs to the

Norwood Division of the Borough of Lambeth, of which Charles Ernest Tritton, Esq., M.P., is the present representative.

The Water Supply is from the mains of the Lambeth Water-Works Company, one of whose reservoirs is on Crown Hill. The district is lit by the South Metropolitan Gas Company.

West Norwood is traversed by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, over which the London and North-Western Railway Co. has running powers. The Station is at Knight's Hill Road.

Excellent Tram and Omnibus services ply between West Norwood and various parts of the Metropolis.



Upper Norwood.



THE ground of Norwood is generally hilly, rising rapidly on the east, south, and west, towards Upper Norwood, where at the highest point, it reaches an altitude of three hundred and seventy-nine feet above the sea-level. The higher ground of Norwood is partly in the parishes of Croydon, Lambeth, and Camberwell, and partly in the Hamlet of Penge.

To understand the history of Upper Norwood aright, it is necessary to bear in mind the former sylvan character of the place, and to revert to that comparatively recent period, when, in singular contrast to the numerous villas and houses, and large population now occupying this delightful eminence, hardly a human habitation could be seen here ; nought flourished on the spot save the wild oak and gipsy.

The Woods and Commons of that portion of Norwood now included within its Upper and South Wards of the Borough of Croydon were inclosed, as we have said, by Act of Parliament, about the year 1800. In 1700, Norwood Common, which was in Lambeth Parish, but situated in the districts known in our time as West and Upper Norwood, consisted of two hundred acres. The Right of Common, annexed to this land from time immemorial, was also extinguished, and the Common was divided and allotted to the several parties supposed to be entitled to it, by the Commissioners of the Lambeth Inclosure Act, in 1808.

Sixty years ago, Upper Norwood, where not covered with oak-woods, was a furze-clad waste, with here and there a patch of cultivated ground. There was however a considerable breadth of pasture-land between the upper and lower portions of the hamlet, respectively within the parishes of Croydon and Lambeth ;

but the former was still surrounded on the south and east by thick woods, in which rabbits and hedge-hogs burrowed ; where sang the nightingale : and the cooing of the ring-dove mingled with a melody, arising from throats of innumerable other feathered warblers. The houses with which the northern slope was beginning to be dotted stood at long intervals, and there were not half-a-dozen shops in the place. "The household of my maternal grandmother, who was one of the oldest inhabitants," says a writer who in his early life knew this district well, "was supplied with bread from the neighbouring village of Streatham, and with fish by an old Irishwoman, mother of the famous pugilist, Ned O'Neile. . . . My mother remembered Norwood when the hamlet consisted of about a score of farm-houses and cottages scattered at considerable intervals along the lanes which intersected the woods, and the only means of communication with the Metropolis was the carrier's tilted cart. . . . The greater part of the ridge over which the southern portion of the hamlet was scattered was covered with thick woods of oak and hazel, which extended southward to Croydon Common (no longer existing), and eastward to the villages of Sydenham and Beckenham. The lower northern portion, sloping towards the valley of the Thames, was a rushy waste, upon which two or three small farmers grazed their cows and their geese." *

The portion of roadway between the top of Leather Bottle Lane and All Saints' Church used to be referred to by the older inhabitants as "between the woods," it having originally been a lane leading between thick oak-woods. As for the green lane now called Parchmore Road, in winter it was impassable.

From a period extending beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant, the woods and green lanes of Norwood were frequented by that singular remnant of an Asiatic nomad race, the Gipsies. Their favourite camping ground was the spot now known as Gipsy-Hill, in Upper Norwood, not far from where the Gipsy queen resided. "The Gipsy House," wrote Lysons, about 1790, "is situated on a small green in a valley surrounded by woods. On this green a few families of gipsies have pitched their tents for a great number of years during the summer season. In the winter they either procure lodgings in London or take up their abode in some more distant counties." † The rustic tenement in which the

* *Reminiscences of a Country Journalist*, by Thomas Frost. Lond. 1838. Ch. I.,

† *Environs of London*. Vol. IV, p. 302.

queen of the Norwood Gipsies lived is shown on the annexed Plan of Norwood Common. But the gipsies have disappeared along with the woods and wastes.

Standing near the road, formerly known as Collier's Water Lane, close to Thornton Heath Railway Station, might have been seen so lately as October, 1897, when it was pulled down, a small ivy-clad tenement, surrounded by withered or decaying trees, and dilapidated barns and out-buildings. Its gable, fronting Parchmore Road, bore date 1590. At the back of this ancient habitation extended a small garden or orchard, at the further end of which was a little octagonal-shaped wooden summer-house, having strongly secured windows, and a floor fixed by old fashioned handmade nails. A cairn of stones, in the centre of the garden, served to prop up a small wooden cross, from which was suspended a board, whereon was written,—

In Memorium
Francis Grimes
Collyer.

The tradition is that a sturdy master collier once lived here, not far from a stream previously referred to, the waters of which were utilised by him in his profitable avocation of charcoal-burning. Yet, whether Grimes was the real name of the Collier or merely the sobriquet by which he was known, I cannot determine. However, there is a curious affinity between the surname Grimes and the dusky occupation of a Collier, and the calling may have originated the name. In "Damon and Pythias," a comedy written by Richard Edwards, and first acted in 1566, one of the characters introduced is Grimme the Collier of Croydon. The satirist has another hit at the sooty imps, whose occupation it was to convert the wood that grew so plentifully in the neighbouring forest into charcoal, in the Comedy of "Grim, the Collier of Croydon, or the Devil and his Dame, with the Devil and St. Dunstan, by J.T.," dated 1662.

It was long ere the charcoal-burning trade decayed, for writing so late as about the year 1780, Ducarel noted that, "the town (of Croydon) is surrounded with hills well covered with wood, whereof great store of charcoal is made."

In course of time the old farm-house of Colliers Water, in which Grimes had lived, came into possession of the Gilpins. An ancient chalice in the Parish Church of Croydon bears an inscription to the effect, that it was "the gift of Mr. John Gilpin of Croydon." Of this family is said to have been that John

Gilpin whom the poet Cowper has immortalized, who purchased the estate of Colliers Water. Dying in 1750, he left his property to his two daughters, both of whom were married. By one of them Colliers Water passed to the Benningtons.

At the commencement of this century the Manor of Benchesham, Bunchesham or Whitehorse, extended from the centre of Croydon, on the south, upwards into Norwood, as far as Beulah Hill. From a Chartulary of Rochester, printed in the "Textus Roffensis," it appears that, soon after the Conquest, the tithes of this Manor were given to that Monastery by Godfrey de Straenbrook; and this grant was confirmed by successive Archbishops, the estate being within their diocese. In 1338, on the death of Stephen de Gravesend, Bishop of London, it was found that he died seised of the Manor of Benchesham, in Surrey, held of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as of his Manor of Croydon, by the service of 21s. a year, and suit of Court to the Archbishop at Croydon, etc. But in the forty-first year of the reign of Edward III, 1368, the Manor was alienated to Walter Whitehorse, the king's shield-bearer, and from him the Manor is said to have acquired its name of "Whitehorse."

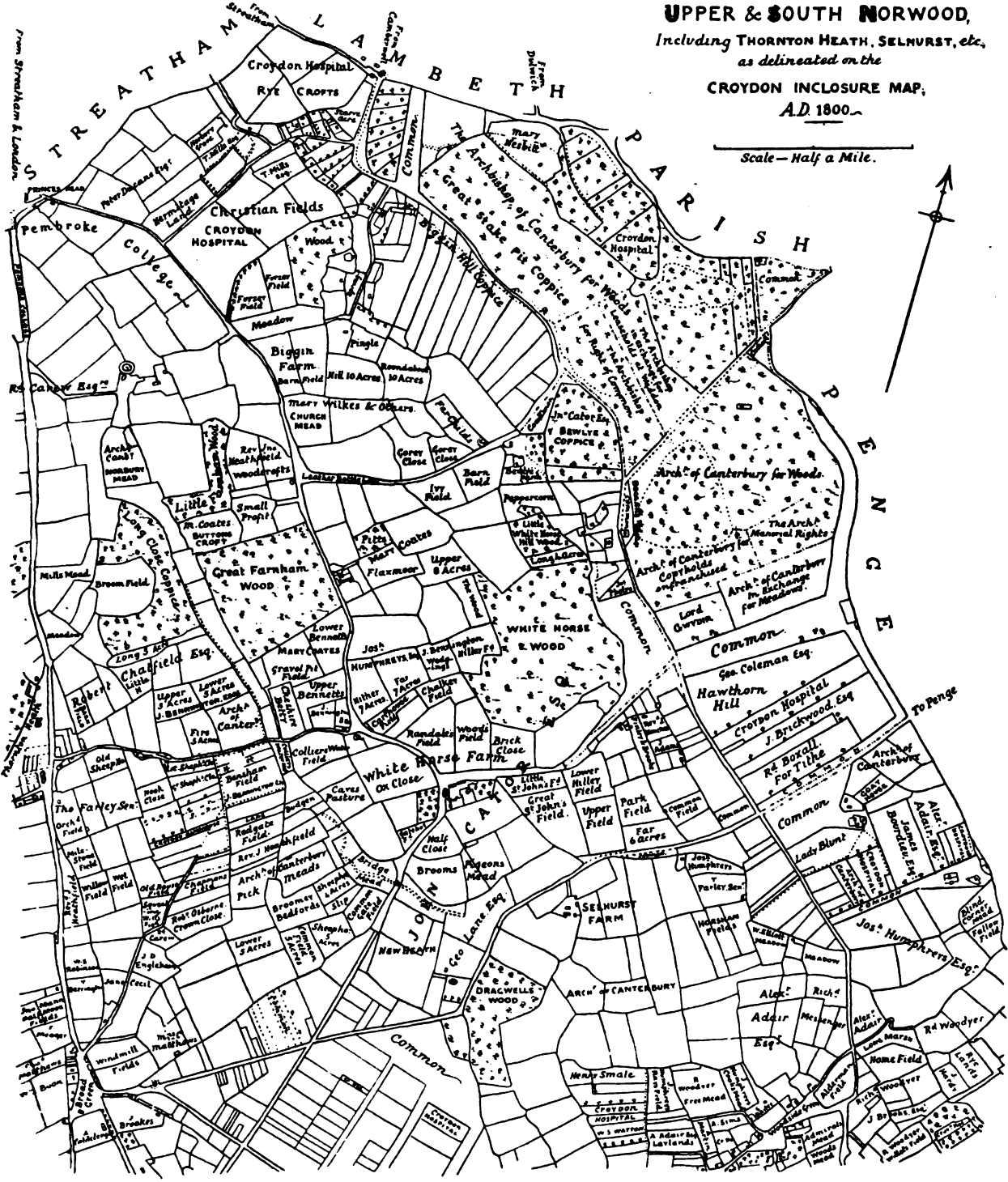
Succeeding changes of ownership occurring, in the sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII, Sir Robert Morton, Knt., nephew of Cardinal Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, died seised of this Manor; and it was held by his relative William Morton, in 1566; whose grandson Thomas, dying in 1678, left five daughters among whom the estate was divided. Four of the shares were purchased by John Barret, Esq., in 1712; and his grandson, to whom the property descended, having bought the fifth share, in 1787, eventually sold the whole to John Cator, Esq., of Beckenham. Dying in 1806, he left the estate to his nephew, John Cator, Esq., who sold it to John Davidson Smith, Esq., since whose time Whitehorse Manor has been cut up and sold to numerous owners.

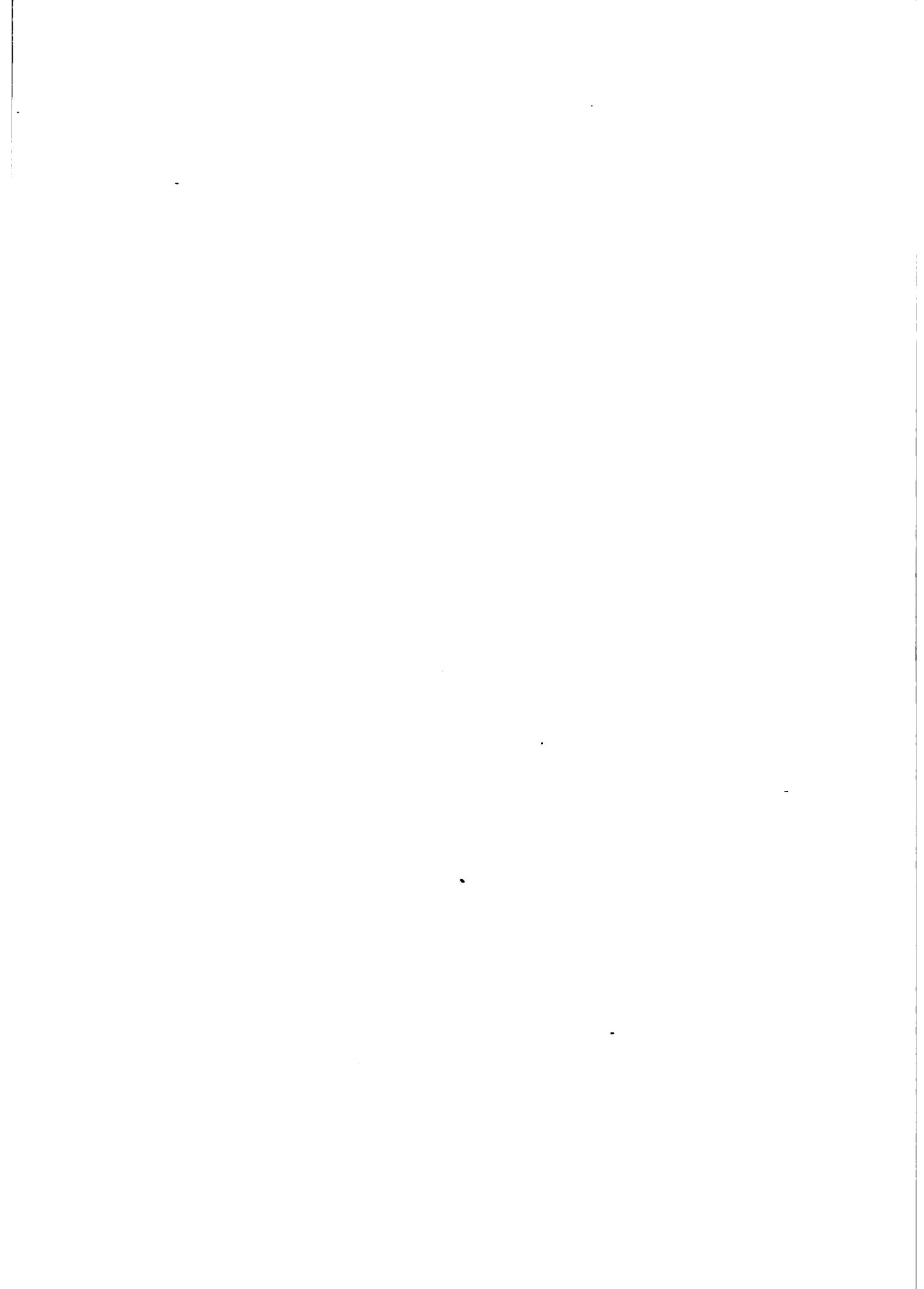
Bensham Manor House, as it used to be called, with its outhouses, orchard and pond, stood just a little off the road, on the south, where Whitehorse Lane joins Whitehorse Road. The date, 1604, was wrought in brick-work on the south gable; but this old mansion has long since been pulled down.

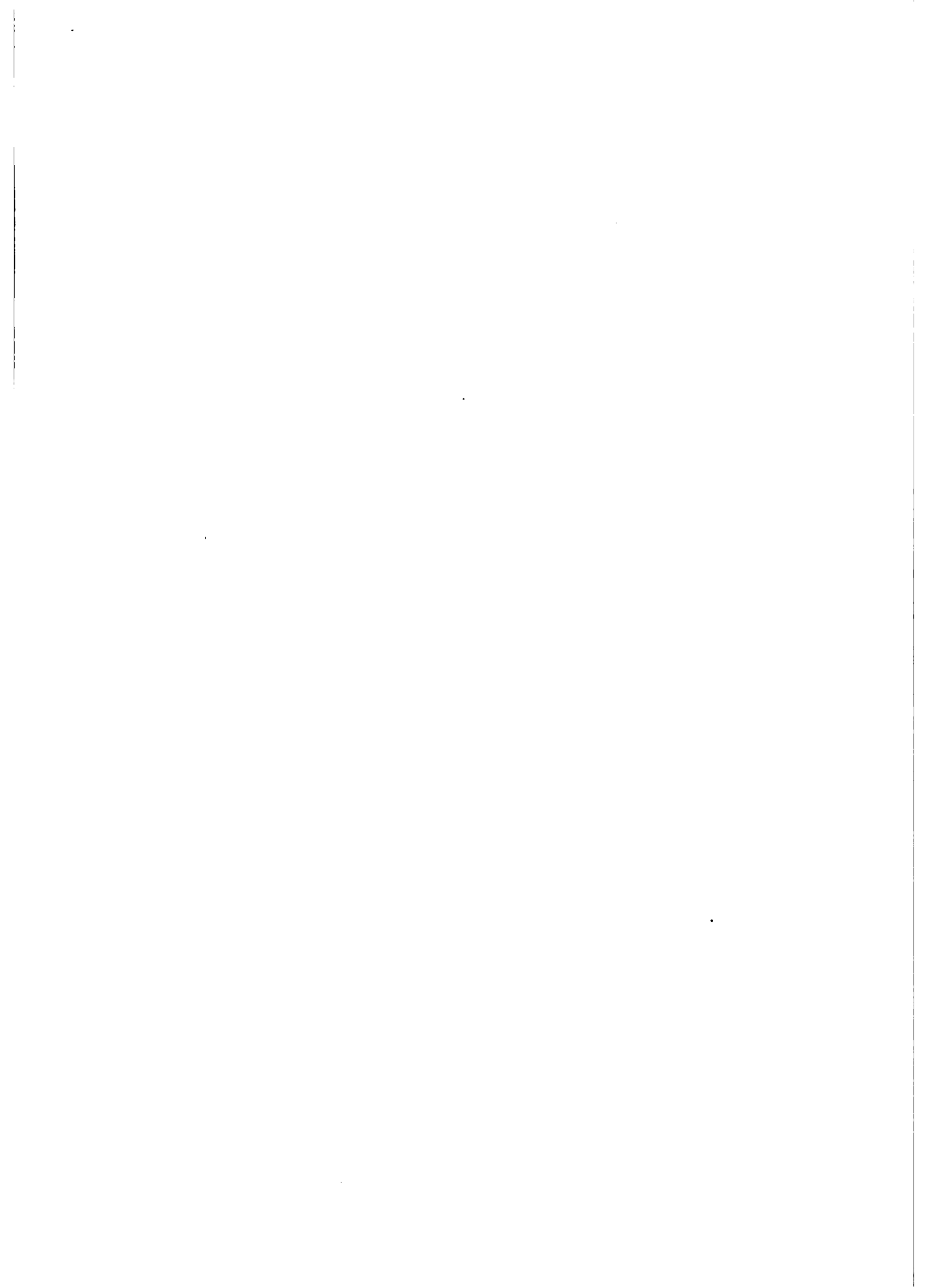
BEULAH SPA.—The mineral spring at Upper Norwood, afterwards known

UPPER & SOUTH NORWOOD,
Including THORNTON HEATH, SELNURST, etc,
as delineated on the
CROYDON INCLOSURE MAP,
A.D. 1800.

Scale - Half a Mile.

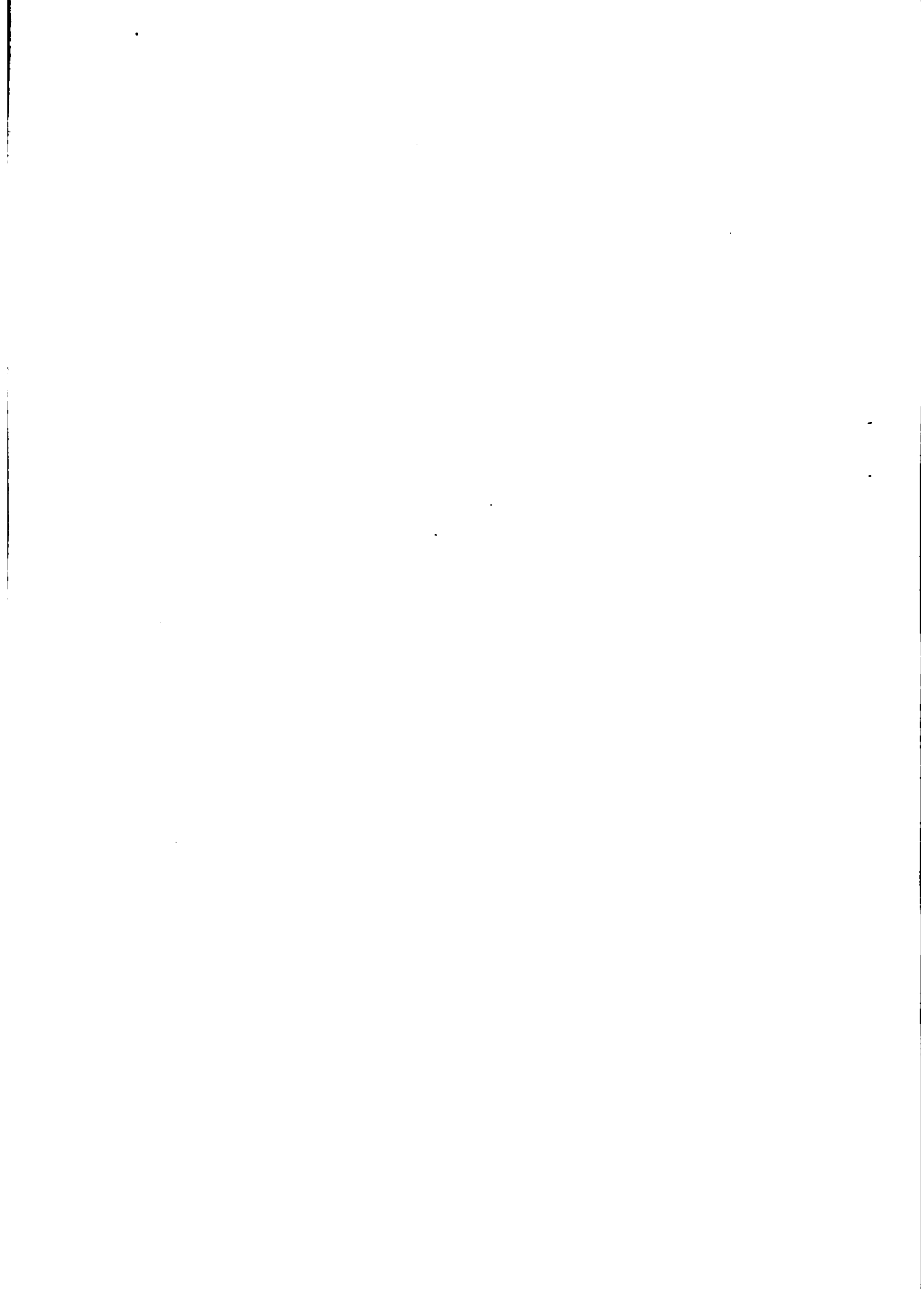








SHOWING WHERE CROYDON, LAMBETH, CAMBERWELL AND PENCE MEET
IN UPPER NORWOOD.



as Beulah Spa, had long been resorted to by the country people of the neighbourhood on account of its medicinal waters. But after John Davidson Smith became owner of the Manor of Whitehorse, he caused the road over Beulah Hill, now called the Grange Road, to be made; he also built the Spa house, and laid out the grounds, under the direction of Decimus Burton, the Architect.* The Beulah Spa estate comprised about thirty acres of enclosed Woodland, situate between the old Leather Bottle Lane and Grange Wood Road. Through this estate carriage avenues and winding footpaths were cut; and from thence extensive views were obtained. Dr. Weatherhead, sometime Medical Director of Beulah Spa, in his pamphlet thus describes the scenery visible from the terrace:—"The ancient archiepiscopal town of Croydon lies at your feet; more remote Banstead Downs spread a carpet of blooming verdure to the sight; in the extreme distance Windsor Castle peers its majestic towers above the mist; while elsewhere the utmost verge of the horizon is bounded by the bold range of the Surrey and Hampshire Hills. Turning to the left you enjoy a view of Addiscombe Place, the seminary for cadets of the East India Company; of Shirley, the sporting seat of John Maberly, Esq., M.P.; of the Addington hills clothed with heaths; and of the park, the seat of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; when the prospect deepening in extent stretches as far as Knockholt Beeches, near Seven Oaks, and, winding round, comprehends the tall spire of Beckenham Church piercing through the dense woods which surround it; Shooter's Hill, Blackheath, and the village that intervenes. Immediately beneath you are the grounds of the Spa, every portion of which can be distinctly traced from this spot, and the paths winding among the woods till they disappear, as it were, in trackless solitude."

Referring to the Spa itself, the Doctor writes:—"The spring rises about fourteen feet within a circular rockwork enclosure; the water is drawn by a contrivance at once ingenious and novel; a glass urn-shaped pail, terminating with a cock of the same material, and having a stout rim and cross handle of silver, is let down into the spring by a pulley, when the vessel being taken up full, the water is drawn off by the cock."

* As a memento of Decimus Burton's former connection with the locality, his name has been given to one of the roads in the neighbourhood.

An analysis of the water by Professor Faraday, yielded the following results:—

Sulphate of Magnesia	...	...	...	...	...	123
Sulphate of Soda and Magnesia	...	...	...	...	...	32
Muriate of Soda	...	...	...	...	...	19
Muriate of Magnesia	...	...	...	...	...	18½
Carbonate of Lime	...	...	...	...	...	15
Carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	...	...	3
						210½

On August 1st, 1831, the Spa with its grounds was opened to the public, and soon became a fashionable summer resort. From Guide Books to the Spa, preserved in the British Museum, we learn that, for a single admission to the Beulah Spa one shilling was charged. The Subscriptions were as follows:—

	Yr.	Qr.	Month.	Week.
For a family ...	£3 3 0	£2 2 0	£1 1 0	£0 7 6
Two of a Family ...	£2 2 0	£1 11 6	£0 15 0	£0 6 0
One Person ...	£1 11 6	£1 1 0	£0 12 0	£0 3 6

Visitors could either drink the water at the well, or have it brought to their lodgings; the charge for delivering it in town was two shillings per gallon.

A service of stage-coaches starting from the Silver Cross at Charing Cross ran three times a day to and from the Spa; the fare outside was 1s. 3d., and inside 2s. 6d.; visitors also were conveyed to the grounds by omnibus. Further, the public were informed that "the threepenny Post delivers letters three times a day around the Royal Beulah Spa, and carries letters twice a day to London."

At the entrance to the grounds stood a rustic lodge; and there was a Reading room, an Archery ground, and a Wilderness or Maze. The silence of these woods was broken only by songs of birds, or the murmuring of a cascade, as its waters hurried onwards towards the lake below. Directly opposite the Mineral Spring a rustic orchestra was erected, and here, during the season, a military band played every day, from 11 o'clock A.M., till dusk. Meanwhile, those inclined for a dance might trip it "on the light fantastic toe" over an adjacent green sward, laid out for the purpose. To add to the amusement, a minstrel, gorgeously arrayed with hat and feathers, bright green short coat well braided with gold, and guitar suspended by a red sash, sang love ballads to sentimental young ladies, who rewarded him with silver, coppers being refused.

Another attraction to Beulah Spa Gardens was Gipsy Cooper. This ancient impostor pretended to reveal the fortunes of all inquirers who crossed her palm with silver. With such a combination of art, nature, imposture, and pleasant out-door life, aided by an occasional draught from the perennial spring, is it surprising that Beulah Spa used to be much frequented, or that all sorts of wonderful cures were attributed to its waters.

In 1833, Madame Vestris brought out, at the Olympic Theatre, a piece called "The Beulah Spa," by Charles Dance, which caused many people to visit the gardens. But the popularity of the Spa eventually waned.

The Beulah Spa, with all its surroundings, many years since became the property of Frederick Horne, Esq., who resides at the Mansion, and continues to this day the ground landlord of the estate. With the exception of frontages on the Beulah Hill and Grange Wood Roads, whereon various handsome Villas have been erected, the charming grounds of Beulah Spa remain comparatively intact. Here still wind the old paths through the shrubbery and woods. The octagonal shaped rustic orchestra, although now dilapidated and overgrown with ivy, still stands not far from the once famous well. The well itself, still perfect, is about twelve feet deep, and full of valuable mineral water. It never freezes. Beyond extends the open green sward, surrounded by a sylvan amphitheatre of singular beauty. The wilderness and the lake also remain.

There used to be another mineral well at Biggin Hill. It is marked on the Croydon Inclosure Map, whereas the Beulah Spa is not.

CHURCHES, CHAPELS, AND SCHOOLS.—The ecclesiastical district of All Saints, Upper Norwood, was carved out of the ancient parish of Croydon in the year 1827. Situate at the corner of Church Road, on the highest ground of Beulah Hill, the spire of All Saints' Church, from its lofty position forms a conspicuous object in the surrounding landscape. Not far off, in Church Road, is the somewhat old-fashioned yet delightful vicarage, surrounded by its no less than two and a-half acres of ground. The living is in the Diocese of Canterbury, it is in the gift of the Vicar of Croydon; there is no endowment; the succession of Incumbents is as follows:—

Rev. E. Harden, M.A. Appointed to the charge when it was a Chapel of

Ease ; on its being made a District Church in 1845, he became the first Vicar. There is a mural tablet to his memory in the Church.

— James Watson, M.A., 1856. Dying in 1894, he was succeeded by

— J. Oakley Coles, of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge ; the present Incumbent. Formerly Curate at the Parish Church of Croydon, to his exertions on behalf of technical education the establishment of the Croydon County Polytechnic was mainly due. He is editor of the *Canterbury Diocesan Gazette*, the official organ of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

When the late Emperor Frederick of Germany was staying at Upper Norwood, he worshipped at All Saints' Church, sitting in what was then the Vicarage pew, in the Chancel, now occupied by the senior members of the choir.

Adjoining this Church are admirable National Schools.

Connected with All Saints is the Mission Church of St. Margaret, in Naseby Road, Newtown : the Curate in charge is the Rev. C. C. Gosselin.

The district originally assigned to All Saints' Church embraced almost a third part of the Parish of Croydon, but owing to the requirements of its rapidly increasing population, it became necessary to sub-divide the area.

Of the various mutations All Saints has undergone, St. Paul's, New Thornton Heath, in Upper Norwood Ward is one. At first a temporary iron Church was erected here, and afterwards the permanent Church, on a gentle eminence adjoining ; where St. Paul's Road meets Norfolk Road. The form of the structure is that of a Cross. It is built of Kentish rag, with smooth stone dressings. The style is Early Decorated, with plate tracery. Only the chancel and transepts, with a vestry on the south-east side of the structure, are finished at present ; the nave being still incomplete ; and the fabric wanting in side-aisles, and porches. The cost, up till now, has been about £3,500. The Church was consecrated on July 6th, 1872.

The first Incumbent was the

Rev. Rupert Montague Browne, M.A., who, in 1886, exchanged this living for that of Rushock Rectory, Droitwich, with

— John Bennett, M.A. He relinquished the work here, without, however, resigning his office as Vicar, in 1893. Since then this charge

has been entrusted to the Rev. George Alfred Lewis, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. He resided at the Vicarage ; and, at length, on the resignation of Mr. Bennett, was presented to this living by the Crown, in April, 1897.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners allow £200 *per annum* to the Incumbent of St. Paul's.

Close to and connected with the Church, stands St. Paul's Hall, of which the foundation stone bears this inscription :—

A. M. D. G.
This stone was laid by
The Rt. Hon. C. T. Ritchie, M. P.
21st June, 1895.

This commodious and pretty structure serves the double purpose of a Sunday School, and Hall, capable of containing 500 people. The building was opened in October, 1895. The cost including furniture, etc., was £2,000. It was designed by H. C. Pegg, Esq., Architect, of Thornton Heath.

The area of All Saints' underwent a further curtailment when, in the year 1875, the sub-ecclesiastical district of St. John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, was formed. The *locale* of the original iron Church was first of all at Thornton Heath ; from whence it was removed and re-erected at Auckland Road ; being opened there on Quinquagesima Sunday, 1876. On May 22nd, 1882, the first portion of the present Church was opened by Archbishop Tait. His Grace's sermon, one of the last he preached, was founded upon Heb. iv., 14 : "*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*" The portion of the fabric opened then was the chancel, three bays of the nave, and the south aisles. Now, all has been completed but the spire.

Reared on a commanding site at the junction of Auckland and Sylvan Roads, presented by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the sacred edifice exhibits a design much in accordance with the beautiful transitional development of Gothic architecture, that intervened between the periods known to ecclesiologists as Early English and Decorated, with features of an Early French type. The ground plan is cruciform, the exterior of the transepts and the buttresses being comparatively shallow. Material, red brick and stone outside, with light-coloured brick and stone inside ; and roof of slate. Flanking the western gable, on either

side is a tall tower having a dwarf stone terminal. A circular newel stair-case attached to one of these towers constitutes a fine feature of the composition. The lower portion of the main tower forms the south transept ; access to it is obtained through a hooded tre-foil headed doorway. A lofty spire has yet to be added to this main tower.

A projecting porch, or *narthex*, approached by steps and extending across the lower part of the west end of the fabric, conducts to the principal entrance to the Church. The massive wall of this porch is pierced by round-headed open arches ; its roof is groined. Access from thence to the baptistery with its beautiful font is easily obtained.

The stately nave is divided from the aisles on both sides by an arcading of four wide pointed arches, resting on short white massive clustered columns, the deeply undercut round capitals of which are enriched with the dog-tooth ornament. Over these arches runs the triforium, and above it a lofty clerestory, furnished on either side with four tall lancet-shaped lights, of one mullion. The nave is lit from the west by three long lancet-pointed windows ; and visible from the exterior, above these is a circular window of geometric design that gives light to the loft.

Both aisles are double, each being separated by an arcading that rests on tall and slender clustered shafts. The wall of each aisle is pierced by four lancet-shaped lights.

In the north transept is a large geometrically constructed circular light, with plate tracery ; and, beneath it, three uncusped pointed lights without mullions. A very long narrow pointed light illumines the south transept.

A perforated stone rood-screen of five arches, displaying the dog-tooth ornament, marks the division between choir and chancel ; it is enriched with a profusion of sculptured angels and saints. Commencing on its north side the carvings of the parapet represent, *Division A*, the four great Latin Fathers, namely, *Sts.* Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo, Jerome, and Gregory of Rome ; those of the corresponding *Div. E*, on the other side, the four Greek Fathers, *Sts.* Basil, Gregory of Nazianzen, Chrysostom, and Athanasius. Of the three middle Divisions, that of *B* exhibits five famous English saints, viz., Augustine of Canterbury, *Sts.* David and Chad, Ven-Bede, and Hugh of Lincoln : *C*, five

Martyrs of the first three centuries ; *Ss.* Polycarp, Ignatius, Clement of Rome, Perpetua, and Cyprian : and *D.*, five Virgin Martyrs, *Ss.* Agnes, Agatha, Prisca, Faith, and Margaret. The rood-screen bears aloft figures of the four Evangelists, nearly life-size. A finely wrought-brass gate in the centre of this screen leads into the chancel. Above the screen is suspended a large gilt cross. The great east window is composed of ten separate lancet-shaped lights, filled in with stained glass of a superior design. The central panel of the elaborate reredos displays in bold relief the crucifixion of our Lord.

On the south side of chancel is the Lady Chapel, having an apsidal east end ; and on the north a quire vestry, sacristy and organ loft.

Throughout the interior of the fabric the vaulted roofing is of yellow brick, groined with ribs of stone ; the light main shafts of which, rising from the ground, are attached to columns of the nave, and thence spring upwards, till they intersect each other in the centre of the lofty roof ; an arrangement imparting singular lightness to the entire design.

The extreme length of the structure is 160 feet, the width of nave and aisles is 80 feet, its height 80 feet, and the height of the two Western towers 104 feet ; the spire when completed is to be 208 feet. The length of the transepts is 94 feet, and the side-chapel is 40 feet, but including the tower 60 feet ; the interior height of the chancel and nave is 51 feet ; the length of the chancel 48 feet.

This substantial and beautiful fabric was designed by the eminent architect J. L. Pearson, Esq., R.A.

St. John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, is in the Diocese of Canterbury. The living is at present in the gift of Trustees. There is an endowment of £200 *per annum*. As yet there is no Vicarage, although a good site for one, adjoining the Church, has been secured.

The Rev. W. F. La Trobe-Bateman, M.A., to whose earnest devotion and energy the erection of this noble structure is mainly due, was the first and is the present Vicar.

On the southern verge of the district of St. John the Evangelist, by the foot of Decimus Burton Road, at a corner formed by its intersection with Whitehorse Lane, stands the Mission Church of St. Alban the Martyr.

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, St. Alban the Martyr suffered in the year 286. The place where he died was called Holmhurst, in the Saxon language, signifying a woody place; near to the Romano-British City of Verulamium, where, says Venerable Bede, there was a beautiful church existing in his time. The Mercian King Offa afterwards founded in the place a stately Monastery, the ruined Church of which has been restored and now forms St. Alban's Cathedral.

At present, the fabric at the foot of Grange Road to which we refer, consists only of nave and side aisles. The exterior is composed of red-brick and stone, the interior of stone. Of the existing building, the western half with its early English lights was first erected, the date of the foundation stone thereof being Ap. XXVII. A.D. MDCCCLXXXIX. The eastern half of nave and aisles was added in 1895; the later work being distinguished by a slight additional height of its arcading, the Decorated heads of its lights, and exterior buttresses. As yet, the structure wants both its clerestory, chancel, and turreted west end. When complete, with roof and crypt, according to the original design, the Church of St. Alban promises to be a handsome and substantial building. Messrs. Bucknall and Comper are the Architects.

The first curate in charge was the Rev. A. C. Scott, now Vicar of Headcorn, Kent; to whom succeeded the Rev. H. S. Carpenter, M.A.: the Rev. P. D. Woods, B.A., is now here.

The Church of St. Paul, Hamlet Road, is situated in that part of Penge which is embraced by Upper Norwood. Its foundation stone bears date 29th June, A.D. 1865. A handsome Gothic structure, the exterior is of Kentish rag and smooth stone dressings, with shafts and string-courses of coloured stone. At the south-east corner is a well proportioned tower with spire. It is in the diocese of Rochester. The living is in the gift of trustees. The first incumbent was the

Rev. W. H. Graham, M.A. He officiated in an iron church first of all erected here, and afterwards in the existing edifice. Resigning in 1895, he was succeeded by

—— R. B. Ransford, M.A., the present Vicar.

Attached to this Church is St. James' Mission Church, situated at St. Hugh's Road. St. Paul's National Schools are in Hadlow Place.

At the junction of Highland Road with Gipsy Hill, stands Christ Church. It is in the portion of Lambeth civil parish included in Upper Norwood. A commodious stone fabric, of the late Early English type, its capital square tower occupies the north-east angle of the building. The structure was completed in 1868. This church is also in the diocese of Rochester. The living is in the gift of trustees, who are five in number. The

Rev. Richard Allen, M.A., officiated in this district for thirty-two years. To his energy it was mainly owing that the original Mission Church of iron, the Schools, and this Church with its Vicarage, were built. He died in February, 1895.

—— R. C. Joynt, M.A., is now Vicar.

Connected with Christ Church is a Mission Church in Berridge Road. Christ Church National School-Room is at Woodland Hill.

The Upper Norwood Congregational Church, at the meeting of St. Aubyn's Road with Church Road, was originally used as an Episcopal Chapel connected with the "St. Aubyn Schools." It came into the hands of the Congregationalists by purchase, through the London Congregational Chapel-Building Society; whose Committee expended about £4,000 in the purchase of the freehold and building, and in altering and adapting the same. The Society appointed as first Minister, the Rev. Richard Lewis, of Lowestoft, who commenced his pastorate at Upper Norwood in May, 1864. The Rev. George Martin, afterwards pastor here, left in February, 1896. The present settled pastor is the Rev. W. Houghton. Adjoining is a neatly built Hall.

On Westow Hill stands a Wesleyan Church, having a spire, of good design; it was erected A.D. 1874. The Rev. W. H. Clogg is the present resident Minister.

The United Methodist Free Church is at Moffat Road, New Thornton Heath. The date on the foundation stones is Sept. 8th, 1880. Its former Minister was the Rev. Joseph Hocking, author of various religious novels of repute: to whom has succeeded the Rev. E. Ratcliffe. Adjoining is a School-room.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of England, a substantial stone edifice

with tall spire, is in Westow Street. The Rev. John G. Train officiates here. Attached is St. Andrew's Lecture Hall. Connected with St. Andrew's Church is a Mission Room in Newtown.

The Central Hill Baptist Chapel stands at the corner of Gatestone Road ; it was erected in 1852. In 1856 the Rev. S. A. Tipple succeeded to the pastorate here, and in this office he has remained upwards of forty years.

At the bottom of Gipsy Hill is Gipsy Road Baptist Chapel, of which the Rev. Walter Hobbs is pastor.

The "Beulah Baptist Church" is planted on an excellent site at Beulah Crescent, New Thornton Heath. The Rev. T. Lardner is its Minister.

In Waldegrave Road, Upper Norwood, is situate the New Jerusalem Church, of which the Memorial Stone was laid in Nov. 1881. An effective design, it is wrought out in a purple-brown rough-cast. The present Minister of this "New Christian Church" is the Rev. John Martin.

At Westbrook Road, Thornton Heath, is an undenominational Mission Room ; a neat structure, erected in 1897, at the cost of Mr. Smith, of Beulah Hill.

At Woodland Road, Gipsy Hill, the School Board for London have a School. It absorbed a former British School on Westow Hill, built by the late Mr. Joseph Tritton ; and was opened in 1887. Mr. Stratton Alldridge is Head Master of the Boys' Department ; he is also the responsible Master of the Mixed Evening Class held here. Mrs. Isabella Bird is the Head Mistress of the Girls, and Miss Jane Smither of the Infants. The average attendance of both sexes, inclusive, is about seven hundred and sixty.

At Rockmount Road, Upper Norwood, stands a seminary of the Croydon School Board. The following inscription, wrought in terra-cotta, appears on the east gable :—

C.S.B. UPPER NORWOOD SCHOOLS, A.D. 1881.

The average attendance of scholars of both sexes here is three hundred

and twenty-seven. The total cost of site and buildings was £5,684. Mr. Francis Hewlett is the Head Master; and Miss Harriet Fifield the Head Mistress.

Another of the groups of the School Board for Croydon is at Beulah Road, New Thornton Heath. This was erected in 1872, and enlarged at various subsequent dates. The total cost of site and buildings, up till now, has been £12,196. Mr. W. H. Lias is the present resident Head Master; Mrs. Trinder is Mistress of the Girls' School; Miss Halliburton of the Junior Mixed School; and Miss Betteridge of the Infants' School.

At Central Hill, Upper Norwood, charmingly situate on the northern ascent from a well-wooded valley where still flourish some large oak trees, the lingering relics of that "Great Stake Pit Coppice" which formerly extended over here, stands the "Convent of the Faithful Virgin." The streamlet Effra, formerly arising on the higher land adjoining, coursed through the Conventual lower grounds, as it sped onwards its murmuring way. In the earlier years of this century the land whereon the Convent is built belonged to Mary Nesbit, who sold the same to the Earl of Bristol. Afterwards, the estate came into the hands of a gentleman who established here, what he named, "The Park Hotel."

In the year 1847 occurred the awful Irish famine, during which, and the subsequent visitation of the cholera, a multitude of poor Irish who had sought shelter amidst the slums of London died; leaving behind them many helpless orphans. In contrast to the happy days of childhood passed in remote villages of Erin, by the death of one or both parents these frail little exiles were now suffering want and all the miseries incidental to the outcast.

Moved with pity for their sad lot, Bishop Wiseman brought the matter under the notice of Henriette le Forestier d'Osseville, daughter of Count Theodore d'Osseville, a noble of Normandy.

This lady had once suffered from what was supposed to be an incurable ailment. During the paroxysm of her pain a vow was made that if she recovered, with consent of the baron, her father, she would found some religious

institution. Marvellous to relate she did recover ; and in fulfilment of her vow, in 1830, the Religious House of "*Le Couvent de Notre Dame de la Charité des Orphelines dite de la Vierge Fidèle*" was founded at La Delivrande, Calvados, Normandy. Situated in the diocese of Bayeux, the objects for which this Conventual and Scholastic establishment was founded were, the maternal adoption of female orphans and other destitute children ; to educate and teach them to earn their living, and re-admit them in case of necessity ; also the education of rich and poor ; the giving of spiritual retreats, etc. The Rule of St. Ignatius is followed :—active and contemplative, missionary and educational ; renunciation of ecclesiastical dignities ; especial obligations of obedience to the Pope, and of going on the foreign Missions.

Acting on the Bishop's suggestion, the estate at Upper Norwood, consisting of about seventeen acres,* upon which the Convent now stands, was purchased by the high-born Henriette ; who, coming over to this country, on the 14th of September, 1848, the year after the famine, took up her abode in the house wherein Mary Nesbit had lived, and commenced her beneficent undertaking with a few orphans.

The Sisters from the Continental House at La Delivrande were accompanied into England by the Rev. D. M. Vesque, who, for some years previous to his consecration as Bishop of Roseau, continued earnestly to devote himself to the development of this Norwood Orphanage.

Famine and pestilence extending their devastation, in a few months the House at Norwood was crowded with destitute children ; but further progress towards their reception was impeded by the want of suitable accommodation. With the design of removing this obstacle, and to meet the urgency of the case, plans were prepared for a building capable of housing several hundred children ; when the Sisters appealing to their friends in France, the Mother House in Normandy generously responded, by contributing upwards of six thousand pounds towards the new building. To this sum the Bishop, now become Cardinal Wiseman, titular Archbishop of Westminster, by whom the Sisters had been invited to England, added another thousand pounds ; and thus a building fund was established.

* Since enlarged by the addition of several more acres.

It was on Thursday, the 24th of September, 1857, that the first portion of the new "Convent of Our Lady of the Orphans," as it was styled, at Upper Norwood, was opened by Cardinal Wiseman, assisted by the R. C. Bishop of Southwark ; on which occasion there was high Mass at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and then a Sermon was preached by the Cardinal. The funds arising from the sale of the tickets of admission were devoted towards furnishing the extra dormitories. At two o'clock luncheon was supplied by Messrs. Pursell, for the benefit of the Orphanage. At half-past three scenes from the Old Testament were enacted by the Orphans.

The noble Norman Henriette became the first lady Superior ; and, divesting herself of all traces of her rank, thenceforth she was known as Mother St. Marie.

The structure was designed by Mr. W. Wardell, the architect, who, then a young man, afterwards emigrated to Sydney. It consists of an extensive range of buildings, erected in a simple Gothic style, imposing rather by its scale and proportion than by any misplaced ornamentation ; a fabric well adapted to the purposes for which it is intended, with a large Chapel, erected in 1871, as a Memorial to Bishop Grant, handsome class-rooms, extensive cloisters, spacious dormitories, refectories and subordinate offices.

Orphans or destitute girls are admitted into this Institution.* The average number of children here is about three hundred and sixty ; who are taught needlework, household work, cooking, washing, ironing, etc., and trained to fulfil the various duties of domestic servants. In general, the account of the girls placed in service from Norwood has been good. Attached to the Orphanage is a Home for the girls who have been brought up there, from which servants can be obtained.

Yet, besides the eleemosynary aspect of the foundation, careful provision is made at this Norwood Convent for the higher education of young ladies.

Madame Desirée Du Breuil has long been the Rev. Mother Superior of this Convent and Orphanage.

On the evening of the Consecration of the Rev. D. M. Vesque as Bishop of

* Certified by Poor Law Board, for reception of R. C. workhouse children.

Roseau, in 1856, the Bishop of Bayeux was presented at this Convent with an Address, in French, from the Catholics of Norwood, Croydon and Mitcham ; wherein they acknowledged in the warmest manner their obligations for the spiritual blessings and consolations they had received from, and the ties of affection and gratitude that united them to, the Diocese of Bayeux.

Soon after landing at Dominica, the principal island of his diocese of Roseau, moved by the magnitude of the task that lay before him, the Rt. Rev. D. M. Vesque looking round for aid, his thoughts reverted to the community at Norwood with whom he had so long worked in concert ; and, knowing the devotion and courage of these Religious on behalf of the destitute children of England, he desired their assistance. Responding to the Bishop's call, four of the Sisters then left this Convent for Havre, where, being joined by three others from the Mother House of La Delivrande, from thence they sailed to the West Indies.

Within the beautiful grounds of this Conventual Establishment there is a small cemetery, towards the centre of which stands a Cross, and close to it are three sepulchral stones. One of these is in memory of Henriette, the noble Foundress of this Orphanage, who died at Norwood on the 28th of April, 1858 : she was buried at the Mother House at La Delivrande, in France. Of the two other inscribed stones, one records the circumstance that Bishop Grant, 1st R. C. Bishop of Southwark, lies here ; and the other that, Bishop Vesque, dying at St. Christopher, one of the Islands of his West Indian diocese of Roseau, in 1858, his remains were brought over to England, and here laid at rest.

Whilst staying at Norwood with the Crown Prince Frederick her husband, on July 5th, 1887, the Crown Princess of Germany and Prussia and Princess Royal visited in the kindest manner this establishment.

A little westward of the Convent, at Crown Hill, is St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School for boys.

Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind.

At Westow Street, Upper Norwood, on a site occupying about sixteen acres, stands the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind ; of which Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen is Patron. It has been conducted for five-and-twenty years by Francis J. Campbell, Esq., LL.D., F.R.G.S., who was one of its chief founders. Deprived of eyesight by an accident in early youth, Dr. Campbell eagerly availed himself of every opportunity of acquiring knowledge and technical skill, not only in music but in other branches of learning. He then devoted himself to developing means for raising the condition of the Blind socially, physically, and morally ; and this College is the result.

In the late T. R. Armitage, Esq., M.D., Dr. Campbell found an able and willing coadjutor. Dr. Campbell acknowledges that the success of the Institution is largely due to Dr. Armitage, who gave him the opportunity of organizing and perfecting his methods for educating and training the blind. Like Campbell, Armitage was blind ; consequently he understood the difficulties to be overcome, and the special plans of working required. Aware of the great improvements which had been made in the education of the blind in other countries, in 1868, Dr. Armitage founded the British and Foreign Blind Association. At that time, five distinct systems of embossed printing were in use in England, and the alphabets used were entirely different from those employed on the Continent of Europe and in America. After much patient labour had been spent in testing all the types in use, the Braille system of dots, instead of lines, was selected ; in preference even to the New York point. Dr. Armitage was the inventor of a simple method of stereotyping on brass plates, by means of which tens of thousands of volumes have been printed and put in circulation for the use of the blind. He spoke the principal European languages fluently, and carried on an extensive correspondence with all the leading educators of the blind. It was his idea that piano tuning, and other branches of the profession of music, promised better results to the blind than could be expected from any other occupation ; and he urged the desirability of introducing into all schools for the blind the

invaluable Braille musical notation. He foresaw, however, that in order to train the blind in music, so as to enable them to succeed, it was necessary for them to have a better education than was then obtainable.*

In company with Dr. Armitage, Dr. Campbell visited all the schools, workshops, classes and religious meetings for the blind; and the additional experience they thus gained deepened their conviction that the majority of the blind with whom they had conversed might have been independent men and women, if they could but have had suitable advantages in early life. The question how to effect the needed changes in the education and training of the blind was then daily discussed by them; neither as yet, however, thought of establishing a new school; they tried rather to induce the existing Institutions to adopt a better method of training.

At length, after consultation with some of the most active friends of the blind, it was determined that an independent experiment should be made. Accordingly, on March 1st, 1872, the School was opened, near the Crystal Palace low level station, with two pupils. It was the musical advantages to be

* The present ameliorated condition of the blind and their success in various professions and handicrafts, are indeed owing in no common degree to Dr. Armitage, whose life and wealth were devoted to the service of the blind. With the view of raising the then deplorable condition of the blind in London, "The Indigent Blind Visiting Society," of 27, Red Lion Square, was originally started. Its mission was to visit and relieve the blind at their own homes, and administer to them the consolations of religion. Eventually Dr. Armitage re-organised this Society; a blind man was then appointed Secretary, and blind missionaries were exclusively employed; with the remarkable result that the Society rapidly increased in extent and usefulness. In connection therewith Dr. Armitage founded the anonymous X.Y.Z. Fund, towards which he contributed by degrees £17,000. The income derived from this endowment, together with a few subscriptions from other sources, by judicious management has done much to improve the condition of the London blind.

"The British and Foreign Blind Association for Promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind" (33, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, London), since its foundation at Dr. Armitage's house in 1868, has greatly advanced the education of the blind, and it still is actively engaged in the preparation of books and music. Besides the *printed* books, a large number of blind scribes are constantly engaged in *writing* embossed manuscripts of standard authors and current literature. Maps, writing frames, arithmetic boards, etc., are also supplied by the Association to all countries caring for their blind. In short, this Association forms a convenient centre to which all new inventions relating to the blind can be referred, and from which information is disseminated to all parts of the world.

Dr. Armitage became Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Royal Normal College. He was born in 1824, at Tilgate Hall in Sussex; he died from injuries received from a fall from his horse near Cashel, Ireland, on October 23rd, 1890.

obtained from its proximity to the renowned Crystal Palace Orchestra that caused Upper Norwood to be selected as the proper site for the projected seminary. Music is the most important branch of education a blind person can turn his attention to. "The first thing I did," says Dr. Campbell, "was to go and arrange with the Palace authorities to admit our pupils to the musical rehearsals, and to this day I am free to take them in at any time." On June 21st, 1873, the beautiful freehold site on which the College stands was purchased. Since then the grounds have been properly laid out, and suitable buildings gradually erected. The value of the property, including Freehold ground, Schools, Residential Buildings, Furniture, with general apparatus, etc., on December 31st, 1895, was estimated at £55,443 19s. 4d.; and since then, a large house, with three more acres of land, etc., have been bought, at a further cost of £7,500.*

The system adopted at this seminary is, by a development of the physical energies of the pupils to aim at invigorating their mental faculties; and, so, by infusing into them greater confidence and self-reliance give them a better chance in the battle of life. Endued with energy, and a love of adventure, blind although he is, Dr. Campbell has climbed the higher Alps; he has crossed the Atlantic forty-nine times. According to his theory the blind must be roused from their inclination to depend on others, and made to believe in the possibility of independence and success. It is the lack of energy and determination, not the want of sight, that has caused so many failures among the blind. "In my long experience with the blind, both of Great Britain and America," the Doctor says, "I have found nothing that will rouse the indolent and encourage the timid, but physical training; it is the lever which gives force to all other education." Every possible form of physical recreation for the blind, therefore, is here employed. To this end advantage has been taken of the hill-side nature of the school-grounds to form numerous terraces with flights of steps, varying in number according to the gradient. Of each descent due notice is given to the blind by a very simple yet safe device. At the head of each flight the asphalt, with which all the terraces are paved, is slightly raised, so that by his foot the blind pupil is immediately warned where the steps are. There is a swimming

* Dr. Armitage's pecuniary gifts to the Royal Normal College for the Blind amounted to some £12,000.

bath ; a lake on which the pupils can row in summer and skate in winter ; and there are swings, bowls, gymnasiums, and skating rinks. Of all the sports of the present day, cycling seems to be the one best adapted to the blind. Accordingly, here is a cycle-track, whereon are cycles of tandem form, some of which enable as many as eleven blind pupils to ride together, steered by a twelfth person, usually one of the sighted masters.

The Royal Normal College is open to the youthful blind of both sexes.

Prior to January 1st, 1894, numerous pupils under sixteen years of age were in training at this College upon terms of payment guaranteed by various Boards of Guardians and School Authorities, the additional payment required in each case by the College being made up either by the parents or guardians of the children, or from charitable sources. But the altered circumstances created by the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act 1893, making it compulsory for School Authorities throughout England and Wales to provide education for the blind and deaf under sixteen years of age, has at length led to a transfer of the Lower or Preparatory Division of this Institution to the School Board for London. The School Board therefore now relieves the Committee of all responsibility for the general expenses of the foundation and for pupils under sixteen, except in special cases.

Meanwhile, the Upper Division remains a National College for blind students over sixteen years of age. It is carried on in an adjoining recently acquired structure, which, with its grounds, three acres in extent, and proper equipments cost £7,500, and is not comprised in the property transferred to the School Board. In memory of the late Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith, one of the earliest and most liberal supporters of the Institution, this has been named the "Smith Training College."

As the severance of these Divisions of the School however would have impaired and hindered the successful work of each, to avoid such a disaster it has been arranged that both departments shall be continued side by side, with the joint use of the same grounds and the same special advantages as heretofore.

The School course is graded as follows :—

First Division, or Kindergarten Department, from five years to nine.

Second Division, or Primary Department, from nine years to thirteen.

Third Division, or Grammar and High School Department, from thirteen years to sixteen.

In respect to the above-named first division, Fröbel's principle of self-work and self-help is far more essential in the training of blind, than of seeing children ; and as a foundation for all their future work, orderly habits, good manners, and upright conduct are inculcated. In the remaining divisions the aim is to lead the children through all the Standards, as provided by the Educational Code, the work being carried out on broad and elastic lines ; whilst thorough physical, musical and technical training are included. According to the ability and inclination shown by each child, the career by which he or she may best be prepared to become a bread-winner is determined. Many must depend on hand-crafts, these have additional technical and mechanical training ; while those who have the capacity are carefully prepared for the Gardner Scholarship, and other examinations.

The Patrons, Council and Executive Committee of the College, whose sole aim has been to serve the blind in the most effective way, agreed to transfer the property of the College to the School Board at about two-fifths of its actual cost ; but only on condition that the places, at least one hundred in number, occupied at the time of transfer by pupils over sixteen years of age, shall in future be retained for such students, and that the Scholarships shall, as hitherto, be open by competitive examination to candidates from all parts of the Kingdom.

The work of the Royal Normal College and Academy for the Blind is now carried on under the control of a united Board, consisting of a Sub-Committee of the London School Board and the Executive Committee of the College. By this plan of united action a grand two-fold object is obtained, namely, that the School Board, without the aid of Charity, gives its blind children the superior opportunities for elementary education afforded by the Preparatory School of the College, whilst the Committee of the College continue to carry on the higher education of the blind over sixteen years of age. It still remains the arduous duty of the latter to find the money for the education and training of blind students over sixteen years of age, the funds of the School Board not being available for this purpose.

Students preparing to become school teachers, after passing the Queen's Scholarship Examination take the course as laid down in the Code for Training Colleges ; while those intending to become music teachers, after passing the Queen's Scholarship Examination, take only literature and history in addition to the prescribed professional course in music.

It is mainly due to the Scholarships given by the Gardner Trust, open to all the young blind of England and Wales over sixteen years of age, that the Royal Normal College has been able to accomplish so much for the professional and business training of the blind. Many of its most successful students have been drawn from the poorest classes, and are now in permanent situations, earning good incomes, who, but for the educational advantages they received through the Gardner Scholarships, would have remained helpless objects of Charity.*

The Education Department has officially recognised the Normal Department for Teachers here as a National Training College.

The Library of the College is valuable and calculated to inspire the pupils with a love of learning. Besides books in Dr. Moon's, Dr. Howe's, and other types, here in the Braille type is a *school Library* of text books ; a *musical library* of standard works for the voice, pianoforte and organ ; with hundreds of volumes on harmony, counterpoint and composition. There are a large number of volumes of the Cathedral Psalter, the Psalms being chanted daily, the pupils reading the words with as much facility as an ordinary choir. And there are likewise two *libraries of general literature*, one for the girls, and one for the boys, each containing more than a thousand different volumes ; and comprising the works of Shakspeare, Milton, Tennyson, Scott, Dickens, with many other masterpieces in poetry and prose ; all printed in a type the blind can easily peruse.

In connection with this Seminary for the Blind is a Guild the objects of which are to assist, advise, and befriend pupils after leaving the College. A Register of Members is kept, containing their addresses and employments, with suitable particulars of their circumstances, capabilities and needs ; and also a Register of Members seeking employment ; and of openings and employments

* In 1879 the late Mr. Henry Gardner left the large sum of £300,000 in the hands of Trustees for the use of the blind of England and Wales.

available. In correspondence with the Guild are ladies and gentlemen in various parts of this country or abroad, interesting themselves on behalf of the blind.

On July 9th, 1879, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by their three daughters, and Prince Louis of Battenberg, visited Upper Norwood, on purpose to be present at the annual festival of this College; when the Princess was graciously pleased to present the prizes. Various other members of the Royal Family have shown their interest in the work by visiting the College.

The Royal Normal College for the Blind, and the practical result of its work, testify to the untiring zeal, earnest devotion, and wise policy, of a rare Executive Committee; backed, as it has been, by a noble band of co-workers. The large amount required to found and start the Institution on its Christ-like mission has been derived from a wide circle of friends. Conspicuous among these ranks his Grace the Duke of Westminster, who, from the commencement of the work has proved an enlightened benefactor to the blind. Among others deserving recognition in connection with the establishment of the College, are Mr. Henry Gardner, the Fawcett Memorial Committee, the Rothschild family, the Corporation of London, the Worshipful Company of the Clothworkers, the Fishmongers and other City Companies; also the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and other Scholarship Committees, etc. Of legacies received, the largest are those of the late John Harrison, Esq., amounting to £3,054 13s. 7d.; Miss Mellor's, £3,024 19s. 0d.; and Miss L. A. Warrington's £2,500 0s. 0d.

It has been already mentioned that, in grateful acknowledgment of the support accorded to the Institution by the late Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith, his name has been given to the Training College here. By the unanimous desire of the pupils of the College, the Executive Committee determined that the principal building, opened by H.R.H. Princess Louise in 1878, shall in future be known as "The Grosvenor Building," the Concert Hall as "The Gardner Hall," and the extensive grounds as "Grosvenor Park." The names of the late Dr. T. R. Armitage and Professor Fawcett are preserved in other parts of the College; that of the former being specially associated with the Gymnasium,

Swimming Bath, and much of the Library, which he gave. In 1892 a Memorial Clock was erected ; beneath it is a marble tablet bearing the following inscription :—

THE ARMITAGE CLOCK AND CHIMES.
Erected 1892,
By the Past and Present Pupils, College Staff,
and Members of the Executive Committee,
in Memory of
THOMAS RHODES ARMITAGE, ESQ., M.D.,
Faithful Friend and wise Benefactor of the Blind,
whose loving service turned Darkness into Light.*

The Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, at Upper Norwood, is an Institution of singular interest ; and even of National utility.

The accompanying facsimile of Rocque's Map of this district curiously reveals the fact that, what have now become the most densely peopled streets and thoroughfares of Upper Norwood occupy exactly the same tracks as the old foot-paths and green lanes through the North Wood did, a hundred and fifty years ago, when the Survey referred to was made. This remark especially applies to the triangle formed by Westow Hill, Westow Street, and the northern end of Church Road ; the same triangle appearing on this Map to be formed by three lanes or paths through the literally uninhabited site ; not a tenement being indicated on it, although every building then occupying any spot on the area appears to have been jotted down by the surveyor.

Map 5 indicates the place in Upper Norwood at which the boundaries of Croydon, Lambeth, Camberwell, and Penge meet ; where formerly grew "The Vicar's Oak." This last named sketch is based on the six inch Ordnance Survey, but with the addition of various more recently made roads, etc.

Owing to its elevated position Upper Norwood is a healthy locality. Its air is clear and bracing, whilst the various extensive views obtainable from its summit are eminently beautiful. Upper Norwood, however, presents no history beyond the relation of a few scattered and unconnected facts, most of these dating no earlier than the later half of the present century.

* The Clock and Chimes referred to were constructed by the eminent clock-makers and bell-founders Gillett and Johnston of Croydon.

But the contrast between the awful obscurity of the aged forest, extending in days of yore over this wide tract, and the fashionable bustling activity now in possession of the site is singularly great. The length, the breadth, the height and depth of the North Wood, united to the invigorating fragrance of the forest, lent enchantment to this spot in olden time. Sundown, and twilight past too, when "the moon rising in clouded majesty," unveiled her peerless light, and threw a silvery mantle over the sylvan scene, mysterious beauty must have been imparted to the forest loneliness.

Adjoining "Christian Fields," so called, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Archbishop Whitgift in the Foundation Deed of his Hospital, is a piece of land bearing the name "Hermitage." With respect to the derivation of the terms "Christian Fields" and "Hermitage Land," it is not improbable that these names may have been originally attached to the lands in question through a connection they may once have had with some Christian hermit of the North Wood. The fields referred to are indicated on Map 3.

"Beulah" signifies a land of delight; a designation truly appropriate to the region forming the southern slope of that hill which sweeps round from All Saints' Church to Streatham Common. Sheltered from the bleak north wind, the air here is very pleasant. From hedgerows, and the well-wooded descents into the open country below, often may be heard the voice of the cuckoo and turtle-dove; with song of nightingale, blackbird, linnet, thrush, and many another sweet warbler.

From the woods
 Came voices of the well-contented doves.
 The lark could scarce get out his notes for joy,
 But shook his song together as he neared
 His happy home, the ground. To left and right
 The cuckoo told his name to all the hills;
 The mellow ouzel fluted in the elm;
 The red-cap whistled; and the nightingale
 Sang loud, as though he were the bird of day.

Of wild plants and flowers, scented or otherwise, the sunny region under Beulah Hill yields to the botanist an extensive and interesting list.

A delightful walk by the winding Grange Wood Road communicates between All Saints' Church, and the foot of Norwood Hill. Looking southward from

the upper part of this road the view is very fine, notwithstanding a congregation of smoking chimneys beneath, at New Thornton Heath. A good road, skirted on either side by handsome villas embosomed amidst a delightful shrubbery or large trees, runs along the crest of Beulah Hill. From the well-timbered grounds of Bigginwood House a variegated and lovely prospect is commanded.

RESIDENTIAL HOTELS.—As a foundation, the Beulah Spa Hotel dates from those palmy days, in the earlier half of this century, when the beauty and fashion of London crowded to drink the waters of the neighbouring mineral spring. Situate on the ridge of Beulah Hill, the hotel stands some three hundred and twenty feet above sea-level ; its area being separated from that of Beulah Spa only by the ancient highway known as ‘Leather Bottle Lane.’ The hotel is large and convenient ; its grounds, six acres in extent, are finely wooded ; and from their sloping height naturally well drained. Sheltered both on the north and east, they command superb views over Surrey towards the south and south-west ; in return, they admit uninterrupted access to a pure invigorating air blowing direct from the Surrey hills.

One of the features of the Beulah Spa Hotel is a recently erected detached structure, capable of seating comfortably from one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons ; and designed either for balls, concerts, or theatrical entertainments.

Altogether, the situation is one of quietness and beauty. As if formed by nature for a health-resort, it is well adapted for a first-class residential hotel.

Sir Frederick Burton staid here for a time, after his return from Africa ; and here he composed a portion of his book.

THE QUEEN’S HOTEL.—With extended wings and corridors, detached from its main building, the Queen’s Hotel, Upper Norwood, attracts the attention of the visitor as he passes along Church Road. It was erected by the late Mr. James Franks, who, in his day, built largely in the neighbourhood. Surrounded by several acres of its own picturesque grounds and pastures, this comfortable, quiet, and well-arranged establishment is held in estimation by eminent London physicians, who have recommended it to their patients on account of the rest invalids can obtain when staying at it. The elevated position it occupies is said

to impart to the surrounding atmosphere a somniferous influence, most valuable as a restorative in cases of overwrought or delicate persons. The Crystal Palace being close at hand with its superb gardens, and high-class musical arrangements, tends to enhance the pleasure of a sojourn at this establishment. A glance at the visitor's book shows that, from time to time, the Queen's Hotel has been favoured with very distinguished patronage. Suffice it to mention the names of Sir James Clark, Sir J. Paget, John Bright, M.P., the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the Duke of Wellington, the Earl and Countess of Mar, Major-General Sir Henry and Lady Rawlinson, Miss Nightingale, etc., all of whom have staid at this hotel. The late Emperor Frederick of Germany and his family resided here for some considerable time during the summer of 1887.

The Royal Crystal Palace Hotel, Upper Norwood, was opened in the early part of the year 1854. It stands within a hundred yards of the entrance to the Crystal Palace. According to the Ordnance Survey, the step at the front door of this hotel is nearly on a level with the base of the gilded cross on the top of St. Paul's. Attached to the hotel are about two acres of pleasure grounds, from whence, on a clear day, magnificent views may be obtained in a due south, or south-east direction; embracing within their horizon all from the higher ground of Surrey on the left of Dorking, as far round as Knockholt Beeches, in Kent. In a more easterly direction the Thames is visible.

Sir Joseph Paxton, who designed the Crystal Palace, used to be a frequent visitor at this establishment. There has just been added to it a handsome billiard room, containing four fine billiard tables, furnished with all the latest improvements. The sanitary arrangements at this comfortable Family and Residential Hotel are excellent; and it is lit throughout by electricity.

Various causes have contributed in recent times to swell the population in and around Upper Norwood. The choice of a commanding eminence in its immediate neighbourhood for the site of the permanent Crystal Palace was undoubtedly a chief factor. It directed public attention to the rustic beauty and pure air of this locality; and the convenience of its railway development inviting merchants and others whose avocations necessitated their daily attendance in London to settle here, villas and residences of every description rapidly

sprang up for their accommodation. This however mainly refers to the permanent residents of Upper Norwood. To these therefore must be added a considerable and continuous stream of comers and goers, temporary sojourners attracted to the Norwood heights as to an inland sanatorium, not to be surpassed for convenience of access to all parts of the Metropolis ; or towards the wonders of the Crystal Palace : accordingly, there are many lodging-houses in the neighbourhood. To meet the varied wants and daily requirements of its multitudinous households, numerous first-class shops and general businesses also have sprung up at Upper Norwood.

There are two important Railway Stations at Upper Norwood ; one known as the *High Level Station* of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway ; and the other called the *Low Level Station*, belonging to the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. Another Station of the L. B. & S. C. Railway is at Gipsy Hill. On the same Company's line, forming the south-west boundary of Upper Norwood Ward, are two other Stations, namely Thornton Heath and Norbury Railway Stations.

A very convenient omnibus service runs between the High Level Station and Crown Hill. The cars of the Croydon Tramway Company, communicate between a point opposite St. Alban's Church, Thornton Heath, and the South End of Croydon.

The Chief District Post and Telegraph Office for Upper Norwood is in Westow Street.

The Police Station is at Gipsy Hill near its Union with Westow Hill.

With respect to the Water Supply of Upper Norwood, except for the purpose of watering the roads, the Mains of the Lambeth Water Works Company supply all outside a radius of two miles from the old Town Hall of Croydon. The Company has two reservoirs in this Ward, one on Crown Hill, at the junction of Crown Lane and Beulah Hill ; and the other, named Selhurst reservoir, at the foot of Grange Wood Road.

The lighting of the district is mainly accomplished by the Crystal Palace District Gas Company ; but a considerable portion of Thornton Heath, and the lower parts of the Ward, are lit by the Croydon Commercial Gas and Coke Company.

Neither the Electric Light nor the Telephone are strangers to Norwood.

Both the London & County Banking Company, Limited, and the London and South Western Bank, Limited, have branch establishments at Westow Hill.

Of *The Norwood Review & Crystal Palace Reporter*, a weekly newspaper, the first number appeared in January, 1880. Mr. William Farmer was the projector ; and he remains the sole Proprietor : it is printed and published at Westow Street, Upper Norwood. Another paper named *The Crystal Palace District Advertiser*, the circulation whereof is gratuitous, is printed and published every Saturday at Westow Street, by its proprietor Mr. Arthur J. Moore.

Robert Fitzroy, the famous meteorologist resided close to the Queen's Hotel, Upper Norwood. He was the youngest son of the late Gen. Lord Charles Fitzroy, by his second marriage with Lady Frances Anne Stuart, eldest daughter of Robert, first Marquis of Londonderry. He was born on July 5th, 1805, and entering the Navy at an early age, eventually became Vice-Admiral. In 1843 he was appointed Governor of New Zealand. When, in 1854, the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade was established, Capt. Fitzroy was placed at its head, and to him are owing the storm signals and other modes of warning that are now in use for the benefit of seamen. He published—"Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of H.M.S. *Adventurer* and *Beagle* ;" "Remarks on New Zealand ;" and "Sailing Directions for South America." His life was unfortunately the price of a too intense devotion to his duties. He died here by his own hand, and was interred in the neighbouring churchyard of All Saints.

Admiral the Honourable Plantagenet Pierrepont Carey, who eventually became the 11th Viscount Falkland, was a landowner here ; and long resided on South Norwood Hill, where eventually he died. The 2nd Viscount was the famous adherent of the Royal cause, who fell at the battle of Newbury.

When the Italian patriot Garibaldi came to England he visited the late Arthur Anderson, Esq., at his residence, "Streatham Grove," Gibson's Hill ; the mansion in which Frederick Nettlefold, Esq., now lives.

At "Westwood," Beulah Hill, resided C. H. Spurgeon, the celebrated Baptist Minister.

Sims Reeves, the far-famed tenor, whose voice so long enchanted the public, lived at Grange Mount, Beulah Hill.

Adjoining Eversley Road, on the north, is a good Recreation Ground, twelve and a quarter acres in extent. The cost, inclusive of the expense of laying it out, was £9,553. It was opened in 1890 by the then Mayor of Croydon, Alderman Schmitz. It has a band-stand. A handsome columnar-shaped drinking fountain here bears this inscription :—

PRESENTED BY S. TUFNELL SOUTHGATE, 1891.

The pretty structure known as Norwood Cottage Hospital is situated near the top of Hermitage Road, Central Hill, just within the boundary line of the borough of Croydon. This hospital was originally opened in 1882; it was enlarged by the addition of a New Wing in 1893. It started with sixteen beds, but about thirty beds are now made up, inclusive of those in the two private wards for paying patients.

This hospital is intended for the benefit of persons engaged in industrial occupations (including domestic servants) who are unable to obtain medical attention, accommodation, and nursing at their own homes, and for accidents of all kinds and cases of sudden illness (non-infectious). The benefits of the Institution extend over Norwood and the surrounding district. The admission of patients, except in cases of accident and sudden illness, is by letters of recommendation. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury is Patron: C. E. Tritton, Esq., M.P., is President; the Vice-Presidents are H. Cosmo Bonsor, Esq., M.P.; Sir J. Blundell Maple, M.P.; the Rt. Hon. C. T. Ritchie, M.P.; and S. Symons, Esq. The Hospital is under the direction of a Committee of Management, who are elected at the annual General Meeting of Life Governors and Subscribers. The property of the hospital is vested in Trustees. A zealous Medical Staff generously give their valuable services gratuitously on behalf of the hospital. The matron is Miss Edith Fry. Attached to the hospital is a nursing staff, skilled in the nursing of the sick.

The front door contains a stained glass :—

In Memory of HENRY PHILLIPS, who died 23rd October, 1893.

He was the first Secretary of this Hospital.

Close to the principal entrance is a window filled in by a design in stained glass, representing the Apostles Peter and John restoring the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. It is surrounded by the following inscription :—

In Memory of JOHN BROCKWELL, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Surgeon of the Hospital, died June, 1894.

Affixed to the wall in the Committee Room is a handsome brass tablet, thus inscribed :—

In Memory
of
MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT RANKEN,
Madras Staff Corps,
Honorary Treasurer of this Hospital,
1882 to 1895.

His skilful administration of its finances, his invaluable assistance in the conduct of its affairs, and his warm interest in its welfare, greatly contributed to the present successful position of the Institution.

Died 8th March, 1895.

In the Patients' Dining Room is fixed another brass tablet bearing the following words :—

To the Memory of
CAPTAIN ROBERT WILLIAMSON RAMSAY
late of the Black Watch Royal Highlanders,
Vice President of this Hospital,
in testimony of esteem for his high character,
of grateful remembrance of his unvarying and generous support of the Institution,
and of his affectionate interest in the welfare of the patients,
this tablet is erected by the Committee,
1887.

A window in the same apartment has some stained glass :—

In Memory of JOHN SHARMAN, M.R.C.S., obiit January 1890.

On Friday, July 16th, 1897, Upper Norwood was gaily decorated in honour of a visit by H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, who, at the special request of Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Frederick, came to receive contributions towards the Diamond Jubilee Fund of the Norwood Cottage Hospital. Besides the display of bunting, a triumphal arch, adorned with oak and laurel leaves, spanned Central Hill. Crowds lined the streets. In the vicinity of the hospital the children from the public schools of the neighbourhood were gathered together, and made themselves conspicuous by the loudness of their cheering. A guard of honour was furnished by the 2nd V.B. East Surrey

Regiment, and whilst the men gave the Royal salute the band played the National Anthem. After inspecting the Hospital, Her Royal Highness was driven to 'Bloomfield,' the neighbouring residence of Mr. Tritton, where, in the presence of a large and fashionable company, the purses, about eighty in number, none containing less than five guineas, were presented. Of these, one represented the contributions of the postmen of Norwood, and another those of the police of the district. The total sum collected for the Hospital as a Jubilee gift amounted to £3,023, of which £1,000 was presented by Mr. von Hoffmann, for the endowment of a bed. The result of the Jubilee contribution has been a considerable enlargement of the Hospital freehold.

The Norwood Cottage Hospital has the right of one bed at the Metropolitan Convalescent home at Bexhill-on-Sea ; and it also has a Samaritan Fund, by means of which poor patients are enabled to stay at the sea-side, and are assisted in various other ways, such as, by the provision of surgical appliances, grants of money and clothing, or food.

The Norwood Cottage Hospital is supported by Voluntary contributions. Its Hon. Treasurer is G. H. Finch, Esq., of Brookfield, Harold Road, Upper Norwood ; P. H. Sheffield, Esq., of Lyndhurst, Victoria Road, Gipsy Hill, is the Hon. Secretary.

To take an interest in the welfare of, and assist to maintain in efficiency so admirable a philanthropic Institution as the Norwood Cottage Hospital, surely becomes everyone living throughout the neighbourhood.

By far the greatest landowners of Upper Norwood are the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and Wales, who now administer the large estate in this neighbourhood formerly attached to the See of Canterbury. The next largest owners of the soil of Upper Norwood are the Charity Commissioners and Whitgift Governors, in whom are vested those lands of Ryecrofts and Christian Fields, which Archbishop Whitgift, in the reign of Elizabeth, gave to the Warden and Poor of his Hospital of the Holy Trinity, at Croydon. The following also are considerable owners of land in Upper Norwood, namely, the Crystal Palace Company ; James Epps, Esq., of Bigginwood House ; Frederick Horne, Esq., Beulah Spa ; Pembroke College, Cambridge, to the

Non-elected.

W. Hopekirk	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
C. Wright	...	...	...	...	...	...	286

The first Meeting of the Town Council was held on Saturday the 9th of June, when Messrs. T. Jackson and C. Bowyer were chosen as the first two Aldermen to represent Upper Norwood Ward. Their elevation necessitated a supplementary election to fill the places of Councillors vacated by them, and it resulted in the return of Messrs. A. G. Holder and W. Hopekirk. On the death of Alderman Bowyer in 1889, Councillor Hopekirk was elected to fill his office, and in 1891 he was re-elected Alderman. He died November 16th, 1897. Thereupon, Mr. Peter Joslin, one of the Councillors for Upper Norwood Ward, was elevated to the rank of an Alderman of the Borough.

The Ward, at present, is represented in the Council Chamber of the County Borough of Croydon by the following Councillors :—George S. Addison, Thos. Betteridge, J. A. Hancock, David Jones, Joseph Peck, and James Trumble.

By the Re-distribution of Seats Acts, 1885, Croydon became a Parliamentary Borough, with one Member. A contest took place for the honour of first representing this Borough in Parliament, between the ex-Mayor, J. S. Balfour, Radical, and Wm. Grantham, Q.C., Conservative; when the burgesses of Upper Norwood Ward assisted towards the return of the latter, by a majority of 1,169, on November 24th, 1885. Upon the elevation, soon after, of Mr. Justice (now Sir William) Grantham to the Bench, there was a second contest for the coveted distinction of representing the newly created constituency, at St. Stephen's; this time between the Hon. Sidney Herbert, Conservative, and Sydney Buxton, Esq., Liberal, which resulted in the return, on the 27th of January, 1886, of the first named, by a majority of 747. On July 4th, 1892, there was a contest for this seat between the Hon. Sidney Herbert, and E. W. Grimwade, Esq., when the numbers were, for—

Herbert	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,528
Grimwade	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,834
Conservative Majority							1,694

The Earl of Pembroke died on the 3rd of May, 1895, when the Hon. Sidney Herbert, succeeding to his earldom, removed to the House of Lords; thus causing a vacancy in the representation of Croydon. But on July 15th, 1895,

the Rt. Hon. C. T. Ritchie, a Conservative, became Member of Parliament for this Borough, without a contest. He is President of the Board of Trade. An able and laborious Statesman, Croydon is justly proud of her representative.

As for the freeholders of Croydon, they are included in the North-Eastern or Wimbledon Division of Surrey.

The foregoing has reference to the Municipal and Parliamentary Representation of the larger portion of Upper Norwood, namely, that which is within the County Borough of Croydon.

In regard to those parts of Upper Norwood belonging respectively to Lambeth, Camberwell, and Penge, these are all within the Administrative County of London. In Sanitary matters and for the Relief of the Poor, however, Lambeth is subject to the taxation of the Vestry of Lambeth, and that of the Lambeth Board of Guardians; Camberwell for the same purposes, being under the control of the Camberwell Vestry and Guardians. For the Relief of the Poor, Penge is included in the Croydon Union; but otherwise it is subject to the Board of Works for the Lewisham District.

In respect to their Parliamentary Representation; Lambeth, Camberwell and Penge, are included within the North-Eastern or Wimbledon Division of Surrey; of which H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, Esq., M.P., is the present representative. Chas. E. Tritton, Esq., M.P., represents the Norwood Division of the Borough of Lambeth; and Sir John Blundell Maple, M.P., the Dulwich Division of the Borough of Camberwell, including the Upper Norwood portions of Camberwell and Penge.

A considerable portion of that vaguely defined district passing under the name Thornton Heath is at present included within Upper Norwood Ward. There is, however, but little in common between the aspirations and requirements of the dwellers of the Heath, and those of the denizens of the Norwood heights. Yet Thornton Heath is a rapidly improving locality; and probably, the day is not far distant when its inhabitants will obtain for themselves a more distinct representation at the Croydon Council Chamber than they have at present.

Less than fifty years ago Thornton Heath was really little better than a heath. "The Lambeth and Provincial Land Society," however, having purchased a considerable quantity of land in the neighbourhood of Parchmore Road and Leather Bottle Lane ; and two other Land Societies, named respectively, "The British Land Society," and "The Englishman," having speculated in the same direction, a motley collection of inferior dwellings gradually arose in the place since named "New Thornton Heath."

We have already noticed old Grimes the Collier's house, and the various Churches, Chapels, and Schools, situated in that portion of Thornton Heath which is within the area of Upper Norwood Ward.

At the junction of Thornton Heath High Street with Woodville Road stands a branch of the Croydon Borough Polytechnic : date of extension, 1898.

Above the older portion of it is a branch of the Croydon Public Library.

Immediately adjoining, in High Street, are the Thornton Heath Public Baths. Of handsome design, the front is of terra-cotta and red brick. An ample corridor entrance leads to a tepid swimming bath, sixty-six feet in length by thirty-three feet in breadth, and capable of containing sixty thousand gallons of water. It has been so arranged that in winter this bath can be covered over with a floor, and converted into a public Lecture Hall, or Ball-Room ; the necessary apparatus of timber being stored in the building. This Bath or Hall, well ventilated, is heated by hot water ; and at night lit by one hundred and thirty-two burners. Attached are ten first-class private baths, having enamelled-slate divisions, and doors with gun metal fixings ; there are also two waiting rooms, and a laundry fitted up with every modern improvement. Over the offices is the commodious dwelling of the superintendent, Mr. Henry Marlow.

These admirable baths were formally opened by Martin Luther Moss, Esq., Mayor of Croydon, on the evening of Wednesday, 16th June, 1897. Mr. E. Haslehurst was the architect, and Mr. Saunders of Croydon the builder.

Not far off, at the junction of the "Drive" with High Street, is situated the Salvation Army Barracks, a corrugated iron structure.

At the corner formed by the meeting of Heath Road and Parchmore Road, stands a substantial building of red brick and stone. Over its massive main entrance is inscribed, "Metropolitan Police ;" and the date, "1887."

Opposite the Vicarage, in Beulah Road, is No. 3 Branch Station of the Borough of Croydon Fire Brigade. It is controlled by District Superintendent Alfred Baker, under whom are eight firemen.

The winding Green Lane, one end of which is named Parchmore Road, undoubtedly is ancient. It appears originally to have been an old trackway through a forest district, once connected with the North Wood. It would even seem to have been the more ancient route from Croydon to London. The route, referred to, appears to have led past the Old Parish Church, up Handcroft Road and Bensham Lane, and so, across to Streatham, by way of this Green Lane. Owing, probably, to huge gravel digging operations that, from time to time have occurred in the neighbourhood of Bensham and Colliers Water Lanes, a link in the suggested route has been lost. It is a fact, however, that Roman coins have been dug up at various spots close to Handcroft Road and Bensham Lane; thus attesting the antiquity of these highways: whilst numerous aged pollard oaks, and huge stems of thorn trees, growing on either side of the Green Lane, bear witness that it also is a very old roadway.

A great deal of smuggling formerly was carried on hereabouts. Coming from the Sussex or Kentish coast, men on horseback might be seen hastening towards their hiding places in the North Wood, or traversing this then desolate heath on their way towards Southwark. These strange looking horsemen rode along in the dusk, carrying a small barrel in front, and another behind, and leather bottles also, fastened to their belts, all full of Hollands or brandy. May not Leather Bottle Lane, in this neighbourhood, have acquired its peculiar nomenclature from having formerly been often used by these bold defiers of the law, when pursuing their hazardous adventure of plundering the revenue.

A public house named "The Fountain Head," just rebuilt, on the north-east side of the Green Lane, occupies the site of one of the old farm houses of this district. On the other side of the Lane are the lands, now under cultivation, of what is known as Parchmore Road farm; whilst further down the Green Lane extend the arable lands, meadows, and ancient buildings of Norbury farm, through the surrounding trees of which wriggles Norbury brook as it hurries towards the Wandle.

The beautiful green hillock, from time immemorial known as Biggin Hill, having fallen into the hands of the brickmaker, is, on account of the excellence of its clay, now rapidly diminishing. Various roads also have been cut through the fields of the adjoining Beulah Park Estate, which is ready to be built upon.

Not far from the hillock referred to, Biggin Hill mineral well was on the right hand side, going up Biggin Lane. The water gushed up at the rate of about seven gallons a minute. It is now closed. Norwood Hill appears to have been formerly surrounded by mineral springs :—Beulah Spa, Sydenham Wells, Dulwich Wells, and again, this mineral well by Biggin Hill. It is a pity their valuable waters are not more utilized.

An old Inn called "The White Lion" formerly stood at the top of Grange Hill.

The important Mansion known as "Hazelwood" situate at the end of Church Road, and commanding a glorious prospect eastward over South Norwood Hill, was reared by Dr. Butter.

It is, however, as we said before ; the Norwood district can yield no history beyond a few unconnected facts ; the reader therefore must pardon our being so discursive.

At Parchmore Road, Thornton Heath, is carried on the Dry Plate and Collodion Manufactory of R. W. Thomas & Co., Limited. The photographic business whence this has been evolved was established by Mr. R. W. Thomas, about half a century ago ; it is therefore one of the oldest photographic businesses. Shortly after the introduction of collodion Mr. Thomas commenced to make it commercially, and when dry plates were introduced, he was soon in the field with one of the best. Since his decease the business has been converted into a Limited Liability Company, of which Mr. Ben E. Edwards is the Manager. This firm has been successful in producing plates noted for their good keeping qualities, great latitude of exposure, and freedom from what is technically called *halation*. They claim that their latest improved dry plates are unequalled, both as regards speed and quality.

Saxe Bannister, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, was born at Steyning, Sussex, on June 27th, 1791. On leaving Oxford he joined the Militia ; and on

Bonaparte's return from Elba, when the whole country was in a ferment, Bannister, raising a Company, volunteered for the Army. He received a Captain's commission, and was on the eve of starting for the seat of war in Belgium, when news of the decisive battle of Waterloo arriving, he retired on half-pay.

Called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, Mr. Bannister was the first Attorney-General of New South Wales ; having been appointed to that office in 1823. He resigned his Attorney-Generalship in 1826.

Mr. Bannister was one of the Founders of the Aborigines Protection Society. In 1848 he was appointed Gentleman Bedel to the Royal College of Physicians. He was author of numerous tracts and papers on Schools, British History, Philanthropy in the Colonies, etc., his chief literary productions being, on the Judgments of Sir Orlando Bridgman, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas ; and, the Life and Writings of Paterson.

Mr. Bannister died at Thornton Heath on September 16th, 1877 ; and was buried in Croydon Cemetery.



South Norwood.



SOUTH NORWOOD, now an important member of the County Borough of Croydon, at the time Rocque surveyed the district, about the middle of last century, was merely part of a huge furze-clad waste, that extended over the north-eastern portion of the parish of Croydon, and joined on to Penge Common.* And when Croydon Common was inclosed in the year 1800, there were only one or two isolated tenements hereabouts, as is shown by the survey known as the Croydon Inclosure Map.†

Upon a hillock, gently rising amid this forest waste stood the goat-house of the Archbishopal Lord of the Manor ; it may have been originally a deer-house or hunting-box : the site is now indicated by the sign of "The Goat-House" Inn.

The descent from the higher ground to the hamlet, or what is now called South Norwood, was then known as Beggars Hill ; it was undotted by a single house.

Through the district coursed a water-way between Deptford and Croydon. The canal referred to was opened in 1809. A large basin of water, forming its head, occupied the site on which West Croydon Railway Station now stands. An iron tram, a pioneer of the Railway system, communicated between Mersham and this canal head, the trucks being hauled by windlass up a short incline, now represented by Tamworth Road, on to the landing stage ; when their contents of stone, lime, fuller's earth, or timber, being shot into barges, were thence conveyed by way of South Norwood, Penge Common, Sydenham, Forest-Wood and New Cross, to Deptford ; and the barges returned to Croydon laden with coal.

* See Map 2.

† Map 3.

Sailing by this canal towards Croydon, the towing path was on the left hand side. Between West Croydon basin and South Norwood were two locks, to enable the canal to pass over Norbury brook, and arrive at the higher level of Norwood. A man called "old Grumble" had charge of these locks; he also used to let out boats for hire, at a shilling an hour.

Several bridges spanned the canal between Croydon and Norwood. The first, a brick-built bridge, crossed the canal where St. James' and White-horse Roads meet; the second, a narrow wooden swing-bridge, was at Sydenham Road, where the railway bridge now stands; a similar wooden swing-bridge crossed the canal at Gloucester Road. Another narrow wooden swing-bridge enabled the pedestrian and vehicular traffic to cross over the canal at South Norwood; it was known as "the Jolly Sailor bridge." The space between this bridge and the water-way beneath was so little that, when rowing under South Norwood Canal bridge, one had to lay down in the boat, to avoid being knocked overboard. Impatient at the delay caused by swinging open the bridge, oarsmen were wont to push themselves through by grasping its underneath timbers.

The Canal crossed *under* what is now called Portland Road, much in the same direction as the Railway does. The gardens of the old "Jolly Sailor" reached down to the Canal, and you stepped out of the boat into them. Adjoining Portland Road, and between the Canal and South Norwood High Street, extended a good-sized broadwater or basin, overgrown with rushes and reeds, the haunt of numerous croaking frogs. The spot now known as "Sunnybank" used to be called "Frog Island."

The Railway lines between New Cross and Croydon generally follow the levels of this old Canal, which thus superseded, consequently has been destroyed. A fragment of the former water-way however still remains at South Norwood. A small sheet of water, much prized by skaters, may be seen in the grounds of an old house, between the railway and the Albert Road; it is a relic of the Croydon Canal. South Norwood Lake, as it is called, near Woodvale Avenue, was formed as a reservoir, whence to supply the waste of water occasioned by opening the locks of Croydon Canal.

At that time, and for a long while after, numerous gangs of gipsies haunted South Norwood.

The Railway from London to Croydon was opened in June, 1839. Even then only a few houses and cottages stood near South Norwood Station, besides the public-house at the corner of Selhurst Lane, before which swung the sign of "The Jolly Sailor," represented by a capering blue-jacket with a pot of beer in his hand. The roof of the original "Jolly Sailor" is said to have been thatched. The gardens of this old hostelry used to be a noted rendezvous for Londoners bent on pleasure.

Fifty years ago there were only two wooden cottages on the east side of South Norwood High Street, beyond "The Jolly Sailor"; their gardens adjoined the grounds of the "The Jolly Sailor." Passing these you came to the orchard, some distance further on, of another wooden cottage, which stood back from the main road, about where Lawrence Road now is. Between the last named cottage and Rogers', now Heaver's farm, no dwelling appeared, nor beyond the farm was there a habitation of any description to be met with, until you came to Selhurst village.

As for the west side of the High Street; previous to the year 1850 only a few small houses existed to the left of South Norwood Hill; fields belonging to Hempsted's farm occupying most of the remaining frontage. Neither Whitworth nor Park Roads had then any existence; these, and various other streets in the neighbourhood, having been cut through lands of the farm referred to since the above mentioned date. Not a vestige remains of Hempsted's farm-house; it stood not far from the roadside, nearly opposite the spot on which the Church of the Holy Innocents has lately been erected. As to the extent of the farm in question; it stretched generally from where Oliver Grove now is, almost to where Princes Road curves round to Selhurst Road; and in a north-west direction, to Whitehorse Lane.

Some distance off the main road, between South Norwood and Selhurst, about the year 1857 an Indian Officer caused a veritable bungalow to be reared. The grounds of this wooden structure abutted on Park Road, occupying a considerable portion of the space between Holmesdale Road, and what in remembrance of it is now called "Bungalow Road." The singular habitation referred to was the first house put up on the high ground of that neighbourhood. But, shortly afterwards, a capital structure was erected not far off, on the

highest ground adjoining the main road ; it was built by Capt. Lash, and is the same as that in which Dr. Dalton now resides.

Retracing one's steps eastward along High Street, and crossing South Norwood Hill Road, standing a little back from the street, on the left, were a couple of little wooden houses, consisting of ground-floors only ; they occupied the site on which the Albion Tavern now stands. Beyond these wooden domiciles were only a few cottages, tenanted by men who worked in the neighbouring brick field. The house in which the owner of the brickfield, old Mr. Pascall, himself resided, planted at the foot of South Norwood Hill, stood some distance from High Street, which it faced. The site of Pascall's house and tilery is now represented by the grounds of Cumberlow.

Coming from the Goat-House Bridge, along the opposite side of this part of South Norwood High Street, there was only the blacksmith's shop, still remaining, and a few cottages.

Several years after the line to Croydon had been opened, an Atmospheric Railway was projected, in order to test which was the better mode of conveyance. Stationary engines were required for the new arrangement, and one of the engine-houses was planted on part of what is now called Station Road, at West Croydon, whilst the other stood at Forest Hill. Then, as now, there were two sets of rails, one devoted to the steam-propelled train, and the other to the carriages moved by atmospheric agency ; looking towards Norwood from Croydon, the atmospheric line occupied the right-hand set. A cast-iron tube, some fifteen inches in diameter, having a flanged slit on its upper side, was laid down between the rails, and extended the entire distance to be traversed. The stationary engine supplied the necessary pressure to an apparatus closely fitting the inside of the tube, and to this apparatus was fixed one end of a rod or piston that travelled along the slit in the tube, whilst the other end of the rod was attached to the carriage. It is said to have been a gentle, easy mode of travelling, and when in proper working order by means of this invention the carriages were made to run at about twenty miles an hour. The machinery however, was liable to go wrong ; and then after a jerk, the carriages laden with passengers, would suddenly come to a stand, and that too, often at very inconvenient places. After a costly and protracted trial, the project of an

Atmospheric Railway via South Norwood to Croydon was discarded in favour of that superior method of travelling we now enjoy.

To the development of the Railway System, the increase of the population of this district is mainly to be ascribed. Enjoying exceptional advantages, as South Norwood does, on account of the Junction here of various important lines ; this circumstance, together with the speed at which numerous trains communicate between South Norwood and all parts of the Metropolis, is the real cause for the disappearance of so many fields and open spaces in its neighbourhood, and the reason why streets of shops or rows of villas and houses of every description now occupy their places.

South Norwood Railway Station at first was merely a wooden shed, the interior of which was canvassed and papered ; the establishment consisted of a Station Master and one porter. After a time, what was termed the *New Station* was built, that cottage-looking structure still standing by Portland Road bridge. Passengers used to ascend to this station from the roadway beneath by a flight of steps. But eventually it also proved inadequate for the ever increasing traffic, and was closed. The present much more important Station was then opened, some distance off, under the title of "Norwood Junction." The sidings and yards in connection with this great Railway Station cover many acres of land.

Yet, notwithstanding the fact that, during the last fifty years numerous houses have been built at South Norwood, and that a great increase of its population has taken place, it still remains a comparatively open neighbourhood. Situated as the place is just at the foot of the well-wooded heights of Upper Norwood, and commanding as South Norwood does a fine view of the heather-clad range of Addington Hills, the locality also may be described as naturally beautiful.

On Wednesday, May 9th, 1883, Croydon kept holiday to celebrate the formal reception of its Charter of Incorporation, by virtue of which the old Local Board of Health, by whom it had been previously governed was superseded, and the Parish transformed into a Borough. Of six divisions into which Croydon was then separated the Ward of South Norwood was one.

The South Norwood Ward of the Borough of Croydon is extensive. It reaches from the County and Borough boundary on the North-east, to the London Brighton and South Coast Railway line at Selhurst and the brook crossing underneath Morland Road on the South-west; and from the Addiscombe branch of the South Eastern Railway, as far as Whitehorse Lane and Woodvale Avenue on the North-west.

Two Aldermen and six Councillors were originally allotted to each of the Wards of the Borough of Croydon. On June 1st, 1883, the first election of Councillors took place, the polling in South Norwood Ward yielding the following result :—

F. C. Pascall	...	...	...	...	...	...	476
J. Smith	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
T. Hillier	...	...	...	...	...	...	393
A. H. Haggis	...	...	...	...	...	...	350
J. Sanders	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
A. T. Layton	...	...	...	...	...	...	340

Non-elected.

R. G. Kestin	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
E. Van-Vliet	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
H. Parks	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
F. B. Marshall	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
W. G. Arnold	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
J. J. S. Clapp	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
W. Blott	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

The first Aldermen elected for South Norwood Ward were Messrs. A. T. Layton and A. H. Haggis; and the supplementary election, this necessitated, resulted in the return of Messrs. J. Stanley and W. Goodwin, as Councillors. The latter is now one of the Aldermen of the Borough.

South Norwood Ward is at present represented by the following Councillors, namely :—Thomas Hillier, Thomas Wickham Jones, Francis William Mark King, Alfred Burrell Seel, James Smith, and Charles Landsbury Tarry.

CHURCHES, CHAPELS AND SCHOOLS.—St. Mark's Church is situate in Albert Road, South Norwood. It appears to have been originally projected as a sub-district Church of All Saints' Upper Norwood; which itself had been carved out of the ancient vast ecclesiastical parish of St. John the Baptist, Croydon. Just

below the towing path of the Croydon Canal, where it coursed round Sunnybank, at a spot locally known as "the island," they reared the Church of St. Mark. Mr. Dixon, the banker, a considerable landowner in the neighbourhood, who contributed liberally towards its erection, laid the first stone on the 8th of March, 1852; and in October of the same year the nave, all that the fabric then consisted of, was consecrated by Archbishop Sumner. In 1853, the Rev. Edw. Hutton became Curate in charge; but after the Order in Council had been granted constituting St. Mark's, South Norwood, a separate District from All Saints', Upper Norwood, a Vicar was appointed.

The succession of Vicars of St. Mark's has been as follows:—

Rev. C. M. Arnold, M.A., first Vicar, instituted September 22nd, 1859.

— W. G. Longden, M.A., instituted, 1876.

— Erskine W. Knollys, M.A., the present Vicar, inducted 20th February, 1888.

St. Mark's National Schools are in Victoria Road, adjoining the Church.

The inadequate provision for Public Worship afforded by the Church of St. Mark, consequent on the great increase of the population of South Norwood, has led to the erection of a second Church here, namely the Church of the Holy Innocents, which occupies a site given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, at Selhurst Road, overlooking the Recreation Ground. It is a handsome stone fabric, erected after a design by Messrs. Bodley & Garner, of Gray's Inn Square. Messrs. Smith & Son, of Leamington, were the builders. The plan includes a lofty semi-detached tower, yet to be added to the South-east corner of the structure. This Church was consecrated on June 19th, 1895.

Standing in the meadow between Tennison and Carmichael roads is a newly built Mission Church, dedicated to St. George, also connected with St. Mark's Church; the date on outside wall is 1897. Date of Dedication, 1st July, 1898.

Woodside, at one time, formed part of the Parish of St. James', Croydon Common; and before St. Luke's Church was erected, the Vicar of St. James' had a Mission Room at Woodside, the same as that in which the Sunday School is now held, nearly opposite the Beehive Inn; where the Church of England Service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Houseman; to whom, about the year 1868, succeeded the Rev. Mr. Davies, who afterwards emigrated to Australia.

The ecclesiastical parish of St. Luke, Woodside, is mainly within South Norwood Ward. The Church is situate near Woodside Railway Station. A natural spring that formerly arose in the neighbourhood, and now runs through a culvert towards the Ravensbourne, gives a name to Spring Lane; at the corner of which, and by the road leading to Norwood Junction, stands the sacred structure. The original building, of a simple Gothic type, was consecrated in 1872, but this having become insufficient for the requirements of the growing neighbourhood, it became necessary that the old inconvenient structure should be replaced by a larger and better fabric. Accordingly a new and much larger brick building, of Romanesque design, was commenced in 1887, by the erection of a chancel and north and south transepts: and it is so arranged that when necessary, a nave, with north and south aisles can be added. Messrs. Mullins are the Architects.

St. Luke's, Woodside, is in the Diocese of Canterbury. The Vicar of St. James', Croydon, presents to the living. The first incumbent was the—

Rev. W. J. Friel, B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, who died in December, 1873. He was succeeded by

— A. J. Bennoch, M.A., of Hertford College, Oxford. In April, 1897, he exchanged this living for that of Colston Bassett, Co. Notts., with

— Joseph Adamson, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge; the present incumbent, who resides at the Vicarage adjoining.

A perpetual stipend of £200 *per annum* is granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Vicar of Woodside for the time being.

The South Norwood Wesleyan Methodist Church stands at the junction of Suffolk Road with South Norwood Hill. It is a handsome and important edifice. The Memorial Stones in front, four in number, are all dated October 15th, 1874. At the rear, in Suffolk Road, is a large Sunday School Room, with Class Rooms. One of the foundation stones here is dated June 29th, 1874, the others 1884. The present resident Minister is the Rev. Robert W. Hopewell.

There is a small Primitive Methodist Chapel in Portland Road.

South Norwood Baptist Chapel is situate in Holmesdale Road, leading from Oliver Grove. In the Tudor style of Architecture, it is constructed of red brick

and stone, with tower surmounted by a belfry. The date on the foundation stone is October 27th, 1885.

South Norwood Congregational Church, a temporary iron structure, with adjoining Hall, stands in Clifford Road, near Norwood Junction. The Rev. F. W. Turner is Minister.

Fronting the main road, and not far from Selhurst Railway Station, stands the neatly designed Selhurst Congregational Church; it was erected in the year 1866, the porch in front being subsequently added. *Minister*: Rev. Arthur G. Bridge.

Behind the sacred structure is a large and commodious Lecture Hall.

The London City Mission Hall, a small but substantial looking edifice, situate in Portland Road, South Norwood, was built in 1889.

Another building, also in Portland Road, has a tablet fixed to its front wall, inscribed :—

JEWISH CONVALESCENT HOME,
founded
in Memory of
JUDITH LADY MONTEFIORE,
5630—1869.

Three of the groups of Schools connected with the Croydon School Board are in South Norwood Ward. The oldest of these is planted at the junction of Birchanger and Carmichael Roads. It bears the inscription, "Croydon School Board, S. Norwood;" the date on the gable light above is, "Built 1875;" but this date can only apply to a portion of the fabric, since Board Schools were erected here in 1874; and that too, after a temporary existence they had previously had in Station Road. These Schools have been enlarged, at various intervals, subsequently. The average attendance of children of both sexes receiving their education here is upwards of nine hundred. From a Memorial Register, attached to the inner wall of one of the Class-rooms, we learn that no less than thirty-five boys belonging to these South Norwood Schools have gained Scholarships at the Whitgift Middle School; and that two of these afterwards gained Scholarships into

the Whitgift Grammar School. To twelve out of the thirty-five boys also have been awarded £10 each, from the "Church Tenement Fund."

The Resident Head Master is Mr. Alfred Thompson, who came here in 1877. Miss Woodhams is Head Mistress of the Girls' School, she has been here from the opening of the Schools; so also has Miss Castle, Head Mistress of the Infant Department.

Up to the present time, the total cost of Site and Buildings of these South Norwood Schools has been £13,347.

Another fine set of Schools of the Croydon School Board stands at the north-east end of Morland Road. The principal building is surmounted by a belfry, and fixed into the buttress of the wall beneath is a tablet thus inscribed :—

This stone was laid
by
W. T. MALLESON, B.A.,
Chairman of the Croydon School Board,
on the
21st day of March, 1891.

Martin Luther Moss,
Chairman of the Works Committee.

R. W. Price,
Architect.
Alfred Bullock, *Builder.*

These Woodside Schools were opened in October, 1891. The average attendance at them is about seven hundred.

The Resident Head Master is Mr. C. Colston Williams; he has been here from the commencement. Miss Elizabeth Ainslie is Head Mistress of the Girls' School; and Mrs. L. Edwards of the Infant School.

Owing to a great increase of the population in the neighbourhood, these Schools have recently been enlarged by the addition of various Class-rooms, and they have become a Cookery and Laundry Centre.

The total cost to the ratepayers of Site and Buildings of the Woodside Schools has been, up to the present, £13,409.

Just on the south-west verge of the South Norwood Ward, and reared on ground close to where the old Manor House of Whitehorse formerly stood, a still larger group of Schools has been erected. Its chief architectural feature is a

handsome Hall, to the outside wall of which is attached a Memorial Stone, inscribed as follows :—

Croydon School Board
 WHITEHORSE ROAD SCHOOLS
 and
 PUPIL TEACHERS' CENTRE.
 Erected
 1891.
 W. T. Malleson, B.A., *Chairman of the Board.*
 H. Morison, *Chairman of the Works Committee.*
 Alfred Bullock, *Builder.* R. W. Price, *Architect.*

During the comparatively brief period that has elapsed since the opening of these Schools, three boys from here have taken scholarships at the Whitgift Middle School ; two of whom have also each received, in addition, £10 from the Church Tenement Fund.

The average number of children attending the Whitehorse Road Schools is between thirteen and fourteen hundred.

Mr. William Hooper is the Resident Head Master ; he has been here from the opening. Miss Smythe is Mistress of the Senior Girls' School, Miss Corney of the Junior Mixed School, and Miss Kirtland of the Infants' School.

At this Centre pupil teachers of both sexes, from the Board Schools of the Borough of Croydon, are prepared for their various Examinations, and they receive instruction in the best method of practical teaching, from competent instructors. The Centre is furnished with the necessary apparatus for teaching subjects connected with science and art, and here is the nucleus of a Library.

Instructors :—Mr. A. Hillyer, B.A. ; and Miss E. J. Holden.

Nor is the physical education of youth neglected here ; for, besides having, like all the other seminaries of the Croydon School Board, large asphalted playgrounds, to these Schools is attached a meadow for cricket or football.

But the cost of the Site and Buildings of the Whitehorse Road Schools has already mounted up to £16,984.

Besides the State and Rate-aided Schools previously referred to, there are several excellent Academies, and Grammar Schools, either at or within easy reach of Norwood ; where sons and daughters of residents may receive a more

during the summer months ; it was opened on June 13th, 1885, by the then Mayor of Croydon (Alderman Cooper). Of private baths, there are seven for ladies and nine for gentlemen ; with a Committee Room, dwelling for Superintendent, and every convenience.

These well-conducted baths are under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Perrin, who have had charge of them ever since they were opened.

The structure known as South Norwood Hall is situate in Station Road.

St. Mark's Hall is in Clifford Road, opposite Norwood Junction, south side.

After various unsuccessful attempts to establish a Free Public Library at Croydon, among which may be noticed the defeat of the proposal by a Poll taken in March, 1886, at length a petition having been presented to the Borough Council in favour of the adoption of the Free Libraries Act, the question was again submitted to the burgesses, with the result that, this second Poll gave a majority of 1,746, out of a Poll of about 11,000, in favour of the proposal. This was towards the close of the year 1888, and on the 29th March, 1890, the Central Free Library of the Borough of Croydon was provisionally opened at North End.

The South Norwood branch of the Croydon Public Library, originally located at the Hall, in Station Road, was opened on November 19th, 1890. It was removed thence to a suitable new building, erected on Corporation ground, at the union of Lawrence and Selhurst Roads ; and formally re-opened on March 29th, 1897. Here is a comfortable Reading Room well stocked with Newspapers and Magazines ; and there is also proper accommodation for the storage and distribution of books. The present number of volumes at the South Norwood Public Library is 7,761.

Adjoining this Library, but fronting Selhurst Road, stands the South Norwood Branch Polytechnic, for the supply of technical and manual instruction, by grant from the Corporation of Croydon, under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889.

Dilating on the subject of Technical Education at Croydon, it may be truly said, it began in a small way ; nor ought the efforts made by the Rev. H. Solly, to correct what he foresaw was a defect in our educational system, to be forgotten. About the year 1875 Mr. Solly became principal of the Artisans' Institute, and opened a class for carpentry, and kindred subjects, at Croydon.

He was in advance however of his time ; for, as yet, public attention had not been sufficiently aroused to the necessity of studying the principles of science and art in connection with industry ; or, of the necessity for improving, not only the artizan, but clerks and commercial men generally ; if this country was to keep pace with the advance of other nations.

It was reserved for the persistent exertions of the Rev. J. Oakley Coles, through the manual education he laboured to impart at Pitlake, in connection with the Mission work of Croydon Parish Church, of which he then was a curate, to be the means of exciting such an amount of public interest in technical and practical work, as led to the establishment of the Borough Polytechnic.

The Croydon County Polytechnic was opened at Scarbrook Hill by the late Dr. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, on Tuesday, December 22nd, 1891.

When the subject of technical education began to arrest attention, the Rev. Erskine Knollys, Vicar of South Norwood, Alderman Goodwin, and others, taking the matter up, formed themselves into a provisional Committee of which Mr. D. H. Somerville became the Honorary Secretary, and classes were arranged at St. Mark's School, in connection with the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. Of these classes one was for learning Short-Hand, it was started by Mr. Somerville ; Dr. Franklin Parsons volunteered to teach a Botanical Class ; whilst Mr. W. F. Stanley commenced a Class for Wood-carving, which he himself taught at his studio, in the grounds of Cumberlow. These classes went on simultaneously for upwards of two years, first under the Committee referred to, and afterwards under a Committee duly appointed at a public Meeting held at St. Mark's Hall. At length a representation having been made to the Croydon Corporation, it was promptly met by a grant sufficient to equip and start a branch of the Croydon Polytechnic at South Norwood. This South Norwood branch was first opened at No. 221, Selhurst Road, on October 9th, 1893 ; it was afterwards removed opposite to the commodious building in which it is now located ; and re-opened in September, 1896, by Mr. (now Sir Frederick) Edridge, then for the fourth time Mayor of Croydon.

The structure comprises an excellent workshop, capable of being converted into a Hall, large enough to seat upwards of two hundred persons. There are also convenient Lecture and Class rooms ; and a dwelling for the resident

Secretary. A capacious basement furnishes the requisite space for an apparatus that heats not only this building, but also the adjoining Public Library.

A small but good Reference Library is maintained at this Polytechnic Branch, for the use of its students.

The number of students entered at the South Norwood Branch Polytechnic for the Session 1893-94 was 336; but the number increased to 884 during Session 1897-98.

The South Norwood Branch Polytechnic is managed by a local Committee of a thoroughly representative character; of whom Mr. W. F. Stanley, F.G.S., is Chairman, Mr. D. H. Somerville, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. James Potter the resident Secretary.

Of local industries at South Norwood, probably the oldest existing one is that of Mr. Pascall, whose great-grandfather, about a century ago, began manufacturing bricks and tiles on the clayey ground at the foot of what was then known as "Beggar's Hill." The hollow desolate remains of the site of Pascall's tilery has been transformed by judicious landscape gardening into the charming shrubberies of Cumberlow. Yet, although the making of bricks has ceased to be carried on here, Mr. Pascall's potteries having long since been removed to other quarters, still T. Pascall and Son's brick and tile business flourishes in the vicinity of South Norwood High Street.

Next in antiquity to the above must be placed the brick-making business of Messrs. Collis, still carried on in extensive fields on either side of Whitehorse Lane.

The late Mr. Horris Parks, who came here in 1851, also carried on considerable brick-making works in the neighbourhood of Portland Road.

The "Jolly Sailor" was unquestionably an old Canal-side hostelry.

Orton's Coal business was established at South Norwood in 1849.

The Optical and Mathematical Works of Mr. W. F. Stanley were commenced at Great Turnstile, Holborn, in 1853; and, about twenty years afterwards, a manufacturing branch of the same was founded at South Norwood.

These South Norwood Works are devoted almost entirely to the manufacture of drawing instruments. Probably there is no other similarly applied industry where the work is carried through in all its details. At this manufactory, however, the metal entering the works in ingots, is first cast to form, and the rough casting passes afterwards through various machines and processes, until the instrument is ready for hand-finishing. Here may be seen a self-acting machine, for dividing drawing scales ; the construction and application of which were invented by Mr. Stanley. In some instances, the division effected by it is so minute that, one hundred and fifty marks go to the inch ; and these—so fine, that a powerful lens is required to read them : the longer marks giving fifths, and tenths, being due to a little cog-wheel behind. This machine is a perfected model of a similar one made by Mr. Stanley in 1862, which gained the first prize for Mathematical dividing, at the Exhibition of that year. The unique machine referred to, works to the standard of every country, with astonishingly minute accuracy. All the principal topographical and railway works of the world have been drawn with scales made by it.

Many machines and numerous processes, however, are required to operate before final perfection is attained. The scales and rules are formed of metal, boxwood, vulcanite, and the best African ivory. The required metal, German silver, brass, gun-metal, or aluminium, having first been molten in the foundry, in the machine room is eventually transformed into complete sets of drawing instruments ; the whole being stamped and finished by expert workmen, with marvellous care.

The Cabinet Workshop also presents a busy scene. Turning lathes ; saws, circular, band and feet ; machines that bore holes for inserting locks, and comb the sides of boxes for dove-tailing ; all worked by steam-power, are operating here from morning till night, upon well seasoned oak, walnut, mahogany or rosewood, and the result,—beautiful cases for the safe-keeping of instruments. The perfection of the processes may be conceived when it is stated that, the locks for these cases are not only made by self-acting tools, but are put on to the finished case by a machine.

A large portion of the work turned out from this South Norwood Manufactory consists of Government contracts, with the Admiralty, Canada, India and Japan.

Various gold and silver Medals have been awarded at the different Exhibitions to Mr. W. F. Stanley, for the excellence of his Mathematical and Philosophical Instruments.

Guy Fawkes' Day, according to some, is a dying festival ; while others

. . . Don't see no reason
Why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot ;

even although the original significance of the pyrotechnic commemoration that takes place on the 5th of November, has somewhat faded from memory. In one respect Guido de Fawkes may be considered a national benefactor, since from the annually recurring date of his ignoble attempt has arisen the pyrotechnic art of to-day ; an industry, the effects of which startle and delight equally the civilized and savage, throughout the world. South Norwood is especially identified with pyrotechny.

The Fire-work Manufactory of Messrs. Brock was originally commenced in London, nearly one hundred and seventy years ago ; Mr. Arthur Brock, the present head of the firm, claiming to represent in his own person, " the concentrated essence of seven generations of fire-work manufacturers." Until a recent period the making of fire-works was a mere hole and corner affair, recklessly carried on amid crowded thoroughfares, with frequent loss of life, and grave damage to property. But all this is altered ; and, through the Explosive Act of 1875, and the searching supervision of the Explosive Department of the Home Office, fire-work making has now become comparatively as safe as undoubtedly it is a healthy occupation. By an Order in Council of June, 1894, the use of fire-work compositions containing chlorate of potash and sulphur was prohibited ; and thus, danger has been finally reduced to a minimum.

The connection of the firm of C. T. Brock & Co. with the Crystal Palace dates from the year 1864.

Messrs. Brock's fire-work manufactory at South Norwood occupies about fifty acres of land ; the firm have another large work at Harold Wood in Essex, besides quantities of explosives stored in magazines elsewhere, and in the floating hulks off Gravesend. Scattered over the South Norwood acres, referred to, are

numerous small wooden, brick, and corrugated-iron buildings, of peculiar construction ; at some distance apart from each other. A large portion of the field is carefully fenced off ; for here are the magazines ; strongly built iron structures, each protected by a screen. The remaining wide-spread area is more closely dotted over with slightly-built wooden sheds, each averaging in size 16 feet by 12. Their interiors are varnished, and the floors covered with lead or linoleum, fastened by copper nails. Any artificial light they may require is to be obtained only from gas jets, burning *outside* their windows. Throughout, the most scrupulous cleanliness is enforced, so as to avoid grit. Every precaution also is taken with the work-people. On entering the factory each person undergoes a search ; and dons a non-inflammable guernsey, and overshoes of brown leather without nails. Government regulations, exhibited by the door of each shed, indicate the number of persons allowed in it ; and prescribe the kind of work, and quantity of composition, permitted. If the work-people want anything they must hang out a red flag, and an attendant comes. Hydrants, and buckets of water, are in every direction. The Magazines are supplied with carefully tested lightning conductors. Both Magazines and forwarding departments are connected by a system of tramways. All is silent ; save a low tapping sound, emanating from some of the sheds.

In the paper stores may be seen shells twenty-five inches in diameter, and upwards of two and a quarter hundredweight. Paper cylinders, of all sizes, from tiny tubes used for squibs and crackers, to the massive cases of the largest rockets, are made in the rolling sheds. Close by are the carpenter's and fitter's shops. In one building the ingredients are cautiously mixed ; in others, various kinds of rockets are filled ; the composition being driven home by taps from a box-wood mallet. At one shed are made those brilliant stars that fall in showers from rockets and shells ; they consist of small cubes of composition, moulded with methylated spirits and shellac ; and afterwards hardened. Another hut is devoted to the manufacture of quick-match ; this is simply cotton wick, steeped in a mixture of gunpowder and starch ; it is the necessary link between the coloured lights in set pieces. In the trenches of the Crystal Palace are the mortars, fired by means of slow matches, whence arise the huge shells, fabricated at this factory, which hurtling through mid-air, and bursting at heights of from 700 to 1,000 feet, finally descend in showers of corruscating stars.

For large set-pieces a huge framework is first constructed, and divided into convenient square sections. On this the artist makes an immense design, the same being outlined in lath and cane. With the aid of wire nails, many thousand coloured lights are then arranged along the design ; all being connected by quick-match. The set-piece having been hoisted into position, by means of an ingenious hydraulic contrivance, amid the darkness of night, is then fired ; when, to the delight of gazing thousands is revealed, it may be " Jack and the Bean Stalk," wherein figures the cow, sold to the artful butcher for a sack of beans, which, duly sown, a giant bean-stalk springs upwards and burns, whilst Jack, a real man, clad in asbestos and enveloped by lighted fireworks, nimbly climbs to its summit. Perhaps the set-piece may turn out a huge fiery Chrysanthemum ; or, greater pyrotechnic achievement still, a colossal sea-fight,—"The Battle of Trafalgar," or "Battle of Manila Bay." These, the largest set-pieces ever made by Messrs. Brock, each measured about an eighth of a mile in length. In the set-piece of the Battle of Yalu River, between China and Japan, the engagement was represented to scale, the masts being 105 feet high ; whilst the entire tableaux measured 600 feet across.

A very considerable amount is annually spent in fire-works. At the rejoicings attendant on H.R.H. The Prince of Wales' tour through India, in 1875, Mr. Brock visited that country, in order to let off the fireworks, of which some hundreds of tons were then used ; ten separate displays being given, at costs varying from £1,000 to £2,500 each. Of Historic Displays, the largest ever prepared by this or any other firm, was that, given at Lisbon, in 1888, on the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen of Sweden. The fireworks were let off on the river Tagus, when three iron-clads with ten other craft, drawn up in a line extending a mile long, were placed at Mr. Brock's disposal. The display cost £3,500. But this amount was much exceeded on the marriage of the Duke of Braganza, when no fewer than 10,000 large rockets were simultaneously discharged. Roughly speaking, a Crystal Palace display, on an ordinary night, costs £10 a minute ; and on a benefit night, about £50 a minute ; the display usually lasting half an hour.

After witnessing one of Messrs. Brock's Crystal Palace Displays, Li Hung Chang declared that the fireworks for which China is famous were completely eclipsed by the splendours of English pyrotechny.

It is not only for purposes of amusement however that fireworks are formed, since here were made those rockets utilised by the Niger Company during their late African War. These require no match ; a string is merely pulled ; and the rocket, reaching its destination, fastens on whatever it touches, and sets alight all within reach. For the same expedition also, was invented, and made at South Norwood, a peculiar kind of friction light. Attached to these is a long string which can be stretched across a path, so that an enemy approaching in the dark, and pressing the string, ignites a fire, which lights up the surrounding country : or, hung on trees, at some distance round the zareba, at sound of the enemy's stealthy approach, the string of these friction lights can be pulled in camp, when the blacks are instantaneously lit up, and effectually surprised.

As if in contrast to such murderous devices, at South Norwood are manufactured enormous quantities of lights and rockets to be used as distress signals by ships at sea, or in cases of shipwreck, by the coast-guard, and the brave fellows who man our Life-Boats.

Five hundred tons of fireworks is the ordinary annual output of the South Norwood Manufactory.

The average number of persons employed here is two hundred, of whom about seventy are females.

Another South Norwood industry worthy of observation is that of James Smith & Sons, Builders and Contractors ; by whom, on an average, upwards of four hundred men are employed. It was established here in 1859. Their large premises, situate by the side of the railway, embrace first-rate steam joinery-works and saw-mills, capacious workshops, and every requisite for the production of good work. Messrs. Smith's contracts extend far and wide. Among various edifices they have reared in this parish may be mentioned that of The London and County Bank, in George Street ; The Gas Company's Office, in Katharine Street ; Messrs. Pelton's, and also Messrs. Grant's premises in High Street ; the fine block of business premises opposite St. Matthew's Church ; and the imposing range of buildings with terra-cotta front, facing the end of Katharine Street. Of the numerous buildings Messrs. Smith & Sons have erected outside their own parish, suffice it to name :—The Memorial Church, at Malvern Links ; Emanuel

Church, Eastbourne; All Saints' Church, Peckham; The Convent, at Chiswick; and the vast Union House at Bromley. All these are superior buildings; and prove that, given the opportunity, this South Norwood firm have both the ability, and the capital, successfully to grapple with the most important structural undertakings.

At South Norwood also is carried on "The Sandell Works Company, Limited," of which the managing director is Mr. J. T. Sandell, the originator of the Sandell Plates and Films. Owing to the special design of these, three primary objects in efficient photographic production are obtainable; namely, gradation in the lights and shadows of a picture, unlimited latitude in exposure, and the prevention of *halation*. The Sandell Plates are of exceptional merit on account of their special adaptation for the photographing of Architecture and Interiors. "Certainly," writes the *Times* correspondent at Rome, "no previous attempts at photographing our splendid church interiors have approached these, and the thanks of the architectural world are due to the inventor of the plates which has made them possible."

The above descriptions refer to what appear to be some of the more important and interesting industries of South Norwood. But every well-directed employment is meritorious. It would however be impossible in a work of this nature to particularize all the worthy occupations carried on here. It will be enough therefore to add that the requirements of the residential portion of this community are not neglected, but are well catered for by capable local tradesmen of every description.

As to the ownership of the soil of South Norwood; here as in Upper Norwood, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are the largest proprietors. The following also are considerable freeholders in this district, namely—The Corporation of Croydon; the Whitgift Charity; the L. B. & S. C. Railway Co.; John Dixon, Esq.; W. H. Stanley, Esq.; Messrs. Collis; and Messrs. Brock.

Remarks previously made in reference to the Gas and Water Supply at Upper Norwood equally apply to South Norwood Ward.

The chief Post Office for South Norwood district is by the corner of High Street, at Oliver Grove. Not far off, in Holmesdale Road, stands a neat terracotta and red-brick structure; it is the South Norwood Postmen's Office.

Opposite to the Post Office, at the corner formed by the junction of Oliver Grove with Selhurst Road, is a branch of the London and South Western Bank.

The South Norwood branch of the Union Bank of London stands at the corner of High Street and Belgrave Road.

Adjoining the Albion Tavern, in High Street, is No. 2 Station of the Croydon Borough Fire Brigade, of which District Superintendent H. Palmer has charge, under whom are eight firemen. As a Station for the preservation of life and property from fire, this mere shed appears hardly to do justice to the requirements of such a densely populated neighbourhood as South Norwood has become.

Of newspapers, two have a special circulation in South Norwood, namely, "The Norwood News and Crystal Palace Chronicle," and the "Herald."

The year 1890 saw the opening, amid a general rejoicing, of the South Norwood Recreation Ground. It consists of twelve and a half acres, sloping gently downwards from Selhurst Road towards the Railway below. The land was purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; and, inclusive of expenses attached to laying it out, cost £7,269. Alderman Schmitz, who was then Mayor of Croydon, officiated on the occasion. The capital band-stand was generously presented by Mr. W. F. Stanley; Alderman Layton gave the gymnasium; the shelter was erected at the cost of Mr. (now Sir Frederick) Edridge. A marble drinking fountain on this ground bears the following inscription:—

Presented
to the
Borough of Croydon
by
MISS EMILY LANCASTER
on
14th July, 1890.

The recreation ground referred to adds much to the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.

A member of the Vestry of St. Giles', Holborn, Mr. Walter Blott lived and died at South Norwood. He wrote a book under the following title:—"A

Chronicle of Blemundsbury.—A Record of St. Giles' in the Fields and Bloomsbury, with Original Maps, Drawings, and Deeds.—By Walter Blott, F.R. Hist.S., 1892. Printed by John Woolnough, 71, High Street, South Norwood. Published by the author, at 'Manningdale,' South Norwood." The volume displays considerable historical research, and a large acquaintance with the locality concerning which it treats. Various illustrations to the book were drawn by Mr. Henry Hodge, of South Norwood.

Two roads, namely the Birchanger and Portland Roads, running almost parallel in a south-east direction, communicate between South Norwood and Woodside. For the first half-way the ground dips considerably towards Enmore Park, and then, gently rising, it eventually reaches the open level of Woodside Green.

Less than forty-five years ago residents at Woodside Green enjoyed an uninterrupted view over waving yellow cornfields as far as the Railway Station at South Norwood.

WOODSIDE GREEN.—In the year 1870, some labourers, instructed by the Agent of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who claim to be lords of the Manor of Croydon, commenced to dig out the ground-plan of a Church on that side of Woodside Green, opposite the villa known as "The Sycamores," the residence of Mr. James Chambers. But this gentleman, although unwilling to throw any obstacle in the way of the erection of a place of worship at Woodside, strongly objected to what he conceived was an invasion of the public right to enjoy the threatened open space in Common. Accordingly, as fast as the workmen dug out the soil by day, as quickly by his direction was it shovelled back again at night. Upon this Mr. Clutton the well-known agent of the Commissioners threatened an action. Eventually, however the matter was compromised; a site for the projected Church was found on another part of the waste, the same as that whereon St. Luke's Church now stands, and Woodside Green, formerly part of the Commons or Waste of the Manor of Croydon, was granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to Croydon Local Board of Health.

The Grant referred to was made at the General Court Baron of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, the lords of the Manor of Croydon, held at the Greyhound Inn, on Wednesday, January 4th, 1871, before John

Benjamin Lee, Deputy Steward; the Homage: Mr. Thomas Farley, and Mr. William John Blake. It is expressed in the following terms:—"At this Court the Lords of the said Manor on the Petition of the Croydon Local Board of Health and with the consent of the Homage, and in consideration of the sum of Five Pounds to the Lords paid by the said Croydon Local Board, granted and by the Rod delivered seisin to the said Croydon Local Board of Health by Richard James Cheeswright, Clerk to the said Board of All those plots or portions of Common or Waste ground, including the Pond . . . being at or near Woodside in the Parish and Manor of Croydon in the County of Surrey, and on the north-east and south-west sides of the main public road leading from Woodside towards Portland Road, South Norwood, and forming part of the Common known by the name of Woodside Green . . . subject nevertheless to the rights of way along the roadways and footpaths To have and hold the same unto the said Croydon Local Board of Health and their successors of the Lords by the Rod at the Will of the Lords according to the custom of the said Manor by the yearly rent of one shilling, and such suits and services as the rest of the Copyhold Tenants are wont to do and perform, and so by the said Richard James Cheeswright, the Clerk to the said Board and their Attorney for this purpose the said Croydon Local Board of Health is admitted tenant thereof. Provided always and the grant hereby made is upon the following express Conditions:—

1. That the said ground shall be appropriated by the said Croydon Local Board of Health to be for ever kept as an open space, and used as and for a place of Recreation for the use of the inhabitants of the said parish of Croydon and of the neighbourhood, and for no other purpose.
2. That no portion of the said ground shall be at any time sold, leased or otherwise disposed of by the said Croydon Local Board of Health, to any person or persons whomsoever without the express sanction and concurrence of the Lords of the said Manor to be first signified by an instrument in writing under their Common Seal, etc.

In accordance with the above by an Indenture made on May 4th, 1871, between The Ecclesiastical Commissioners of the first part, and the Local Board of Health for the District of Croydon of the second part, "in consideration of

the sum of Five Pounds sterling, paid by the said Local Board into the Bank of England to the Account of the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners," they conveyed to the Croydon Local Board of Health, and their successors, Woodside Green; in witness whereof the Commissioners affixed their Seal; and the following five members of the Local Board signed their respective names:—Cuthbert W. Johnson, Horris Parks, Alfred Crowley, Daniel Watney and Alfred Cresswell.

Thus, through the spirited action of a private individual it came to pass, that the public right to Woodside Green was for ever secured from further molestation.

Several roads intersect the Green. Of an old farm-house, formerly occupying its centre, not a trace now remains, save a few ancient poplar trees that mark its site. The pond, which had become a nuisance, has been filled in; and the various plots of land forming the Green are now surrounded, and defined, by a substantial open wood and iron fence.

Pleasant it is, on a summer eve, to watch the games of cricket played on Woodside green sward; and hear the sound of children's voices, as with merry glee they divert themselves over this pretty Recreation Ground.

The Beehive Inn, and likewise the adjoining smithy, are ancient fixtures. Dickenson's Lane derived its name from an eccentric old gentleman who used to reside in the primitive looking tenement at the corner of it.

A public footpath, near St. Luke's Church, leads from Spring Lane, across some meadows and by the railway side, to the South Norwood Irrigation Farm, and Elmer's End.

Croydon has been a pioneer in the cause of sanitary science. The evils of retaining decaying animal and vegetable substances near our dwellings, and the abominations that poison every undrained locality, constrained Parliament, in order to secure the health of the country, to pass the measure known as the Public Health Act; and Croydon was one of the foremost towns to avail themselves of its advantages. Fortunately, by the passing of the Local Government Act of 1858, empowering Local Boards to carry sewers out of their district, and to take land for the purpose of sewage irrigation, our Board was enabled to surmount the obstacles which previously had presented themselves, in consequence

of their fouling of the river Wandle ; and henceforth, avoiding the evil practice of turning their sewage, into the river, by an easy and natural process they succeeded, not only in effecting the purification of the sewage, but in applying it by irrigation to agricultural purposes.

The Corporation of Croydon are the owners of two sewage farms ; one, known as the Irrigation Farm at Beddington, consisting of 670 acres of freehold land, which receives the sewage of the Town of Croydon, Thornton Heath, and part of Upper Norwood ; and the South Norwood Irrigation Farm. It is the latter we now proceed briefly to describe.

The South Norwood Irrigation Farm, containing some 164 level acres under irrigation, is situate at the eastern extremity of South Norwood Ward ; and is partly in Croydon Parish, and partly in the adjoining Parish of Beckenham. All the main sewers from South Norwood on the one side, and from Shirley on the other, meet here ; and discharge their crude contents into two large freeing tanks ; at the bottoms of which the solids settle, until carted away to be used as ordinary manure. The unincumbered liquid matter next passes through a double set of upright iron rods or screens, fixed some feet apart, the rods of the last screen being placed closer together than those of the first. Having passed through these screens, the liquid sewage then flows through glazed earthenware pipes, half-pipes, and open carriers on to the land, over which it is made to pass in every direction ; until, finally cleansed and purified of its noxious ingredients, the effluent passes by an outfall on the north into the Chaffinch brook, a tributary of the Ravensbourne ; and thus the purification of the sewage of this district is effected.

A pair of engines, acting by gas power, pump the liquid sewage on to the higher and more distant parts of the farm.

Rye-grass, mangle-wurzel, and oats are the staple crops grown ; and so great is the fertility caused by this sewage irrigation that, although the area under cultivation consists only of an inferior stiff clayey soil, during last year it yielded no less than six crops of rye-grass.

The farm-buildings consist of an engine-house ; and two stables, one of these being in South Norwood, and the other, although but a few feet distant,

in Beckenham ; each stable accomodates four horses. There are also four cottages for labourers. Mr. John Figg is the Farm Manager.

Upwards of thirty-five years have elapsed since the enlightened authorities of our inland parish determined to try the experiment of the utilization of the sewage of Croydon by surface irrigation. The result has proved that, the sewage of a town passing on to, and over land, undergoes a change, whereby it becomes chemically and physically so altered, that neither stench, nor disease, can afterwards arise from it.



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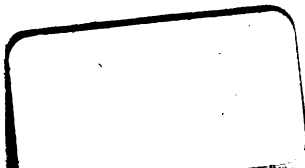
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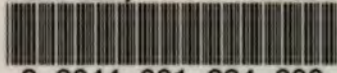
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